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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XIII.—NO. 24. WEEKLY EDITION. APRIL 22, 1876.

The DAILY COMMERCIAL, published by the Commercial Printing Company, No. 76 Fifth avenue.

RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

☞ TERMS OF THE DAILY: Single copy, 3 cents; delivered by carriers (per week) 15 cents; subscribers by mail (per year), **$10 00**, postage prepaid.

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HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., April 13, 1876.

SENATE.

The resolution rescinding the refusal of the Senate to consider bills coming from the House after the first of April, was adopted.

The following House bills were defeated in committee:

Providing a remedy by mandamus against supervisors of roads who refuse or neglect to open or repair roads.

To secure to miners engaged in mining anthracite coal a proper recompense for their labor.

Providing for the appraisement, collection and payment of damages to private property by the grading of streets or alleys in cities, and authorizing the occupation of private property for the purpose of slopes or embankments.

The House bill giving bounties for fox, wild-cat and skunk scalps was passed.

Senator Wood tried to have the South Side Secession bill restored to the calendar. He was opposed by Messrs. Newmyer and Anderson and failed—yeas 17, nays 21.

Mr. Boyer, on a question of privilege, denied the charge that he was absent from the city trying to evade the process at the hands of the Sergeant-at-Arms. He claimed to be sick in his room and was corroborated by a number of other Senators.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House discussed bills on second reading.

The Philadelphia House of Refuge appropriation bill was amended as to the election of managers and passed.

Mr. Gunster denied, on behalf of Mr. Skinner, Journal Clerk, the published account that he had made a confession to the Senate investigating committee of complicity in the boom bribery.

The House met in afternoon session at three o'clock. The following bills were considered and passed on second reading:

Act to reimburse St. Vincent's College, Westmoreland county, for the maintenance of soldiers' orphans.

Act to reimburse the High Sheriff of Westmoreland county for expenses incurred by him in suppressing riots in said county.

Act making appropriation for the salaries of officers and employees of the Pennsylvania Reform School at Morganza, and for the erection of new buildings and to pay insurance thereon.

Also, joint resolution authorizing the Board of Public Charities to appoint managers and officers for said Pennsylvania Reform School at Morganza.

Joint resolution providing for the payment of the expenses of the inauguration of the Governor.

Act making an appropriation of $3,000 to the State Agricultural and Fruit Growers' Societies for a display at the Centennial Exhibition.

Joint resolution providing for the relocation and remarking of the boundary line known as Mason and Dixon's line, between the States of Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Supplementary to the act to establish an insurance department, providing for the adjustment of tax on premiums of insurance companies of other States and governments.

Act relating to certain military claims on file in the Auditor General's office.

Supplementary act regulating the election of Secretary of Internal Affairs, defining his duty and fixing his salary.

Act to provide for the refunding and redemption of existing indebtedness of townships, cities, boroughs and school districts or other municipality or incorporated district, evidenced by bonds, certificates or notes issued prior to the 20th of April, 1875.

Act to protect children in the Commonwealth in their right to acquire useful trades.

Act entitled "A further supplementary act regulating elections in the Commonwealth."

Act to revise, amend and consolidate existing laws for the assessment and collection of State taxes, county, city, borough and township rates and levies. Postponed for the present.

The following were made from the Local Judiciary Committee, which was agreed to: That Hon. Morgan R. Wise having misrepresented to said committee the condition of bill No. 136, entitled "An act relative to hucksters in Greene county," which bill he introduced, not having been properly advertised, all of which is in conflict with the act of Assembly regulating the advertising of local bills, therefore we most respectfully report in favor of the adoption of a resolution requesting the return of said bill from the Senate.

The House then adjourned.

Another Caucus.

The Democrats held a caucus this evening, and discussed the situation of bills now pending in the House. There is a disposition in the House to postpone action on many important bills, so as finally to defeat the same. Among these is the act to relieve Allegheny county from State, county, city, borough and township taxes. It was decided to restrict all speeches hereafter to five minutes, and diligently push through as many as possible of the important bills now on the calendar before adjournment.

Mr. Gentner's Story.

Charles R. Gentner voluntarily went before the Boom Investigating Committee, this evening, and in his publication of his evidence they conceded him the point that his evidence should be immediately given to the public press. After he had been sworn the following testimony was elicited: I never asked Wanner or any other member of the House to vote for or against any bill, especially this Boom bill. I have joked to him and other members, as rumors were flying thick and fast in a general way about the House, that there was money being used for and against the passage of the Boom bill. Members have often in a loose way asked me concerning the bill, all of which I would laugh at and then immediately forget, placing no importance whatever upon the same. He swore positively that he had no knowledge of himself that money had been used, and that he had no authority whatever to offer or give any money, either directly or indirectly, to any person to influence them for or against the passage of the Boom bill; that anything he might have said was only in a joking way, and was just hearsay. He swore positively that he did not know any of the lumbermen; never talked with any of them, except Brown, Beck or Embick, of Williamsport, and he solemnly stated that he did not know, nor never spoke to Herdic. He knew Mr. Herdic while in Williamsport, and that was all the knowledge he had of him.

It is entirely proper to state that every member of the House holds in reverence Mr. Gentner. All think him innocent of any participation in efforts to improperly influence the passage of the Boom bill.

The Boom Bill Trouble.

The latest sensation in the Boom bill investigation is the story told by Mr. Petroff to the committee, inculpating Mr. Skinner, the Journal Clerk of the House. Skinner first approached the subject to me by saying that the Boom bill would likely be reached on Tuesday, and that he would like to see the Philadelphians "fixed" so that the lumbermen would deal with them if they could. I told him I thought they could be dealt with. By that time we reached the Keystone, and he said he would see me again and left me. That morning, while in the House, Skinner came to me and asked me whether I could get ten men out of the Philadelphia delegation to vote with both sides of the House for five hundred dollars each. I said certainly. He said that Embick had told Beck it would be necessary to get ten men out of the Philadelphia delegation to carry the bill, and he would let me know further about it on Monday night. That afternoon, as I was going to the depot, in company with O'Neill and Patterson, I stopped at the Lochiel Hotel, and while there met Skinner. He called me aside and said that Embick had gone to Williamsport to make arrangements with the lumbermen and would let me know what they would do on Monday night. So Skinner left me. After he had gone it occurred to me that I had paired off with Mr. Nissley on this bill and I had important business in Philadelphia that would likely detain me over Tuesday, so I went to see Skinner, which I stated that in case he heard from the lumbermen before Monday to telegraph the same to me, so I would see the Philadelphia members while in the city. I did not hear from him.

$5,000 FOR TEN "MEN."

On Monday I came up, as the business I expected did not occur, and while in the House Skinner came to me and said that the lumbermen had agreed to give $5,000 for ten men out of the Philadelphia delegation, and that they were willing to put the money up in my hands or in anybody's hands whom we might suggest, satisfactory to them. I said, "I am satisfied; I will see the rest of them and let you know tomorrow." On Tuesday morning I told Skinner that they were satisfied for him to hold the money. He said, "Give me the ten names, with four others you can get in case they are needed." I said, "How about the money?" He said, "If you meet me in the Clerk's room at 2:15 o'clock this afternoon we will settle that." I said, "All right." So I met Skinner at the time named. We went into the office together and had not been there three minutes before Mr. Embick appeared. He seemed to have a key of the door, as it was locked and he came in without it being opened for him, and he said that he wanted the ten names. Skinner gave me that he wanted the ten names to see if there was any among them that they had already got. I gave Skinner ten names, which he wrote down upon a paper and then handed them to Embick. He took them and examined them. Then he took a certificate of deposit out of his pocket, indorsed it upon the back with his name and payable to the order of Skinner, and handed it to Skinner, who started to say something to him, when Embick interrupted him by saying that he did not want anything further to say; that we could settle it between us, and then walked out of the room. Skinner handed the certificate to me, saying: "Look at it yourself." I took it, saw Dougherty Bros.' signature on the face of it and Embick's on the back, payable to the order of Skinner, and it was for seven thousand five hundred dollars.

FOURTEEN "MEN" WANTED.

That was the first intimation I had that they wanted fourteen men. Skinner said: "You will have to get four men more; that will make five hundred each and five hundred for me. To satisfy you that this is all right, I want you to get three or four of them to go with us to Dougherty Bros., and I will satisfy you that it is all right. I will meet you at the corner of Third and Market streets." I said: "All right." I started out to get somebody, as no one knew what I had done in this matter but Harry O'Neill. I went towards the Keystone; when I reached Third street I saw O'Neill and told him what had transpired between Skinner, Embick and myself. I asked him to come along. He refused. I told him it was necessary for some one else to take part in this matter, in order to give it a bona fide appearance. He then consented to go as far as Third and Market streets. On our way down Third street we met Skinner. He said to us: "You walk down, and I will follow." When we reached Market street O'Neill left me and walked over towards the Lochiel. I stepped around the corner, when Skinner came up. He asked me what the trouble was with O'Neill. I said that he would not go, that he and I would do as well. We went into the bankers' together. Skinner called a man by name.

THE CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT.

We passed into a back room. Skinner submitted this certificate to him, saying: "Is this all right? Is this your signature?" He answered: "Yes, we will pay that today or to-morrow, or whenever presented." With that we walked out. Skinner left me and told him what the banker had said. That afternoon, when the House was in session, Skinner called me into the transcribing clerk's room and asked me if I wanted those four names. I told him I would see the men and give them to him. I left him and went into the postoffice, where I met Senator Brown, Beck or Embick, of Williamsport, and he solemnly stated that he did not know, nor never spoke to Herdic. He knew him while in Williamsport, and that was all the knowledge he had of him.

It is entirely proper to state that every member of the House holds in reverence Mr. Gentner. All think him innocent of any participation in efforts to improperly influence the passage of the Boom bill.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, April 14, 1876.

SENATE.

Mr. McNeil presented the House Bituminous Ventilation bill, with amendments materially changing the bill.

A bill repealing the supplement to an act incorporating the borough of Kittanning, passed.

Adjourned until Tuesday.

The Governor sent the following appointments of notaries public to the Senate for confirmation: William Macrum, Allegheny city; John Relitz, Meadville, Crawford county.

HOUSE.

The House took up the local calendar on second reading. Among them the following bills were considered:

The bill repealing an act to regulate the election of boarding directors in the sub-districts in the city of Pittsburgh. Passed.

Mr. Christy moved to second bill No. 224, on the ground of its being unconstitutional. Favored by Christy, and opposed by Billingsley, Irvin and Dickson. It was not agreed to and the bill passed a second reading by a vote of—yeas 107, nays 14.

A motion made to reconsider the vote defeating the Erie County bill was lost.

The House met in afternoon session at three o'clock, and proceeded to the consideration of local bills on second reading. Ten bills were disposed of, as follows:

Act fixing the pay of overseers of the poor of the borough of Kittanning.

Act relating to law library in the county of Bedford.

Act relating to the collection of street tax in the borough of Butler.

Act to repeal an act for the relief of constables and witnesses in the county of Crawford.

Supplementary act extending to Schuylkill county the act relating to hawkers and peddlers, and regulating their action in Fayette county.

Act repealing the act by which Somerset county was transferred from the Western to the Middle District, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, retransferring Somerset back to the Western District.

Act repealing the road law of Carroll township, Washington county.

Act to authorize the acquisition by the several counties of the State, for the use of the county, bridges erected over rivers and creeks, and for the abolition of tolls therein.

Act regulating compensation of newspapers for publishing mercantile appraisers' lists.

Supplementary act providing for the erection of bridges across rivers and creeks where said stream is the boundary line of two counties.

Act relating to killing game, fixing the time for shooting deer from November first until January first of each year.

Act repealing certain local special acts relating to roads in Buffalo township, Butler county.

Act prohibiting horse racing at county or State fairs.

Act relating to crossing steam railroads by passenger railway cars at grade.

Act conferring equity jurisdiction upon Courts of Common Pleas in all cases of mortgages of property or franchises of railroad, canal or navigation companies.

Act authorizing the formation and regulation of street passenger railway companies.

The act repealing the prohibitory liquor law of Braddocks borough and second districts of Wilkins and Patton townships, Allegheny county, was, on motion of Mr. Christy, indefinitely postponed, which will leave the prohibitory law in force in those districts.

Some forty additional local bills were passed upon second reading, when the House adjourned until Monday afternoon at three o'clock.

The Investigation.

Mr. Douglass, the member from Philadelphia, who at first refused to testify on the boom question, has given in his evidence. He states that he met Embick in a saloon in Harrisburg. He was called out and Embick asked to support the Boom bill, at the same time offering $300 for his vote. Douglass replied that he couldn't be bought. He further stated that he knew of Skinner's negotiations with Petroff, but had no confidence in it, reasoning that Skinner was only trying to get the vote of the Philadelphians by insinuating that they would be paid, without any intention of paying them.

Senator Boyer appeared before the Senate committee. He denied the imputation that he was endeavoring to escape the process, and announced his willingness to testify on the Boom bill. This committee has examined Messrs. Barrows and Powell, Directors of the Lumbermen's Exchange, and Mr. Banger, Treasurer of the Boom Company; Heath, Herdic's private secretary, and others. All these gentlemen had no knowledge of any money being used by anybody.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., April 17, 1876.

HOUSE.

The House met at three o'clock, but a quorum not being present a recess was taken until 4:30 P. M.

Mr. Spang called up the supplementary act to amend and consolidate the several acts relating to game and game fish on the Susquehanna River. This bill is one of importance, and intended to protect persons engaged in any manufacturing interests in the State, accustomed to washing iron or other ores and coal preparatory to its use for coking or burning in furnaces, and requires them to prepare a tank or other suitable receptacle into which culm or coal dirt may be collected, so that the same or the sediment therefrom, so far as protection from passing into any river or stream of the Commonwealth.

Mr. Spang offered a substitute for section 2, which provides that where the plaintiff or prosecutor is a constable or public officer, and fails to recover the penalty prescribed in the original act, the costs shall be charged upon the proper county and allowed as other county charges are audited and allowed; and when the plaintiff or prosecutor is a private citizen, the costs shall abide the event of the suit or prosecution, and be paid as in other cases.

Several bills passed the House on first reading, among which was the bill repealing the Local Option law in West Newton.

The House met in evening session at 7:30, and resumed consideration of the bill to enlarge and extend the jurisdiction of aldermen and justices of the peace in cities of the second and third class. Mr. Smith, of Chester, raised a point of order that the adoption of an amendment to the first section, making the provisions of the bill general, rendered the bill unconstitutional by being altered from its original purpose.

The Speaker decided the point well taken, and the bill was dropped. This puts a final *quietus* upon this iniquitous bill, which was sought to be roostered through, and was espoused and championed by the aldermen themselves, the press and entire people being opposed to such unwarrantable stretch of power as this bill would have conferred.

Mr. Ringgold submitted the following:

WHEREAS, Information comes from the State of California that the Pacific Mail Steamship Company have contracts to bring Chinese by thousands weekly, offering their labor at seventy-five per cent. less than that of American workmen, thus causing thousands of workmen to go idle and their families to be reduced to poverty for want of employment to support them; therefore, be it

Resolved, &c., That to protect Pennsylvania labor, our Senators be instructed and our Representatives in Congress requested to use all constitutional means to prevent such destructive labor from being imported into America.

The House refused to suspend the rules to consider the resolution and it lays over until to-morrow.

Bills Considered on Second Reading—Act to authorize bridges to panics incorporated by special acts to issue preferred stock and borrow money by issuing bonds secured by mortgage, to an amount not exceeding one half the capital stock of such corporation. Passed.

Act to permit the voters interested to decide upon the further construction of roads which the supervisors of township or roads have failed to complete for a period of more than six years. Passed.

Act to repeal the act authorizing the School Directors of Youghiogheny Independent school district, in Sewickley township, Westmoreland county, to levy and collect a per capita tax for school purposes. Passed.

Act to authorize turnpike companies to reduce the number of their managers or directors. Passed.

Act to establish a State Board of Agriculture. Passed.

Act to compel the appointment of deputy sheriffs in this Commonwealth, and restricting their traveling fees. Passed.

Act to enlarge the jurisdiction of aldermen in cities of the second and third class. Mr. Hays moved to indefinitely postpone the bill, and it was seconded by Mr. Long, which was carried; but on motion of Mr. Zern, the vote was reconsidered.

Mr. Gemmill, of York, offered the following amendment, which was agreed to: Extending the provisions of the bill to all justices of the peace in the Commonwealth. Messrs. Hays and Smith, of Chester, opposed the passage of the bill.

Act to enlarge the powers heretofore granted to individuals to erect piers in any rivers of the Commonwealth, so far as relates to fixing the precise location of such piers. Passed.

Act to provide for the equalization of taxes on machinery in this Commonwealth. Negatived.

Supplementary act fixing the salaries of the several officers of the Commonwealth, the number of clerks to be employed in the several departments, fixing the salaries of the messengers of the Governor, Auditor General and Secretary of Internal Affairs at twelve hundred dollars each. Passed.

Act fixing the compensation of county commissioners in counties containing less than one hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants. Passed.

Act to correct errors in transcribing the act relative to the sale or traffic in mineral water and other bottles. Passed.

Act to establish technical departments in connection with public high schools. Passed.

Act to enlarge the jurisdiction of the Courts of Common Pleas of this Commonwealth in altering, amending and improving charters. Passed.

Act to secure to children the benefit of an elementary education. Pending consideration of the above bill the House adjourned.

The Boom Investigation.

By some means, a subpœna was served on Colonel Scott, of the Pennsylvania Railroad, to appear before the Boom Investigating Committee, and he was put to the trouble of coming up specially from Philadelphia to put in an appearance, which he did at 7:30 this evening. The committee gave him a long hearing, and in less than five minutes the Colonel had answered every question that they could devise or desired to ask. The moment Colonel Scott was seen the bill, knew nothing about the inclinations of any member in regard to it, or about any matter effecting either side of the bill in regard to appropriations or anything whatsoever. It is rather a matter of regret that so busy a man as Colonel Scott should be called away from the arduous duties of his office to ride 210 miles for less than five minutes' examination on a subject of which he knew seemingly nothing in the world. But perhaps his failure was a good prognosticator. Fixing the pay of overseers of the poor of the borough of Kittanning.

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Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

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WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 13, 1876.

Taxation of Bank Capital.

The Executive Committee of the National Association of Bankers of the United States appeared before the Committee on Banking and Currency to-day, to secure a law prohibiting the States from assessing for taxation the capital stock of a bank beyond its par value. They stated that in some States, particularly in New York, these taxes are ruinous. The members of the committee propounded a number of interrogations on the financial question. The bankers, with one accord, declared that resumption in 1879 was impossible, but at the same time it would be better to let this law rest as it is now, at least for the present.

A Policy at Last.

The Chairman of the Committee on Banking and Currency observed to-day that as for himself, he thought that the financial plank in the Pennsylvania Democratic platform would be as fair a proposition as any which they could produce in Congress, under the circumstances, to present to the National Convention at St. Louis. This seems to be the general tendency of leading Democrats in the House. While they are anxious to frame a policy for themselves, they are afraid to tackle the subject again.

The McCandless Bill.

The House Judiciary Committee are ready to report the bill retiring Judge McCandless with the six months limitation, but have withheld the bill at the instance of Mr. Hopkins, who discovered that some of his Democratic colleagues were disposed to oppose it on account of the six months limit, which, they say, is refusing to take the word of Judge McCandless, who has signified his wish to retire at the end of the May term. The real cat under the meal tub is, that they indulge in the main hope of a Democratic administration, and wish to hold over to secure the appointment of a Democrat.

The Bothersome Financial Question.

The leading Democrats in the Senate and House have had several conferences of late on the financial question. It was agreed that it would be better to take this question up at an early day in Congress, in the desire to settle upon a policy there, rather than leave it to the undisciplined members of a nominating convention. The ill-advised rushing of the caucus bill into the House in advance of the authoritative sanction of the Committee on Banking and Currency, to which it was referred, is considered to have been an unfortunate sequel to the bright prospects then evident of disposing of the vexed question. There will, it is understood, be another caucus assembled shortly, and it is probable that a caucus will be recommended to again consider the financial problem. Some of the leaders, however, think the present caucus would be inexpedient and unnecessary, as the question has already been fully discussed there; that the Committees on Banking and Currency already possessed of the views of their party to frame a measure. As a prominent Democrat remarked to-day, it is not easy to prepare a financial plank that the leaders in the House who claim or aspire to be leaders. They admit that the necessity of action is imperative, and that under the lash of party responsibility it is impossible to lay down a policy which could be accepted by the St. Louis Convention.

The Silver Bill

was signed this afternoon by the presiding officers of the two Houses, and will be presented to the President to-morrow. It is understood that the Treasury will commence paying out the silver coin on Monday.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 14, 1876.

Blaine Between Two Fires.

Mr. Blaine has been asked whether he proposed to ask the committee of investigation into the recent charges made against him. He replied that he should not do so, and that there was nothing to investigate. He could not, he said, expect justice and impartiality from any committee of the present House. The friends of Mr. Blaine are confident that he will emerge unscathed from the scandal with which his name has been connected, while the enemies declare that they do not call for a committee of investigation, he will confess his guilt.

The Metric System.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations have considered the proposition on the part of certain European powers for the United States to appropriate her proportionate amount of the expenses of a convention, to meet at stated periods and in different countries, to perfect a metric system of values, weights and measures which would be accepted and carried into effect in all the countries of Christendom. The Committee have decided adversely on the proposition, on the main argument that the people are not yet fully educated up to this question, involving as it does so radical a change in the basis of computation in every department of science and industry, as well as in the current transactions of every day life. The committee do not disfavor the proposition per se, but generally would have been made the occasion of unjust and uncharitable criticism.

MORE CORRUPTION.

A San Francisco Newspaper Makes Serious Charges Against Admiral Rodgers, Senator Sargent and Others.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 17.—The *Chronicle* this morning, in a three column sensational article, charges Admiral Rodgers, President of the Spalding Court-martial, with being open to the same charges as those against Spalding, in permitting Ellis T. Armstrong, foreman of machinists, yards and docks at Mare Island, to absent himself from duty the greater portion of the time, drawing pay all the time, in violation of the regulations; that he was also interested in the result of the trial, as all Spalding's orders and vouchers passed his hands for approval; also that on the strength of an order from the Navy Department authorizing the expenditure of $10,000 for rebuilding the steamer Monterey, with implied consent to devote the sum to rebuilding the yacht Governor Low Smith, the pleasure yacht Fredo was built at a cost of $45,000, and nothing done to the Monterey or Joe Smith; that the steam launch Nellie was also built without authority of the Department, and no report of the cost forwarded. The cost was about $25,000, and was charged to work on the steamer Monterey and other objects. It is also stated that Judge Advocate Hogner has received several telegraphic orders from Washington to allow no politics to be brought into the case, and that Hogner was sent here to convict Spalding and shelter certain high officials who are interested in the matter. The *Chronicle* also alleges that extensive frauds exist in the contract with the Vallejo water works to supply the navy yard with water, in which M. J. Wright, postmaster of Vallejo, is largely interested, and plainly intimates that Senator Sargent is at the bottom of the whole system of corruption on naval and treaty affairs on the coast.

THE LABOR QUESTION.

THE MINER'S STRIKE IN OHIO.

CLEVELAND, April 15.—The latest news from Massilon this afternoon, is that all is quiet, although the new miners are badly demoralized with fear. No attempt has been made again to put them into the tune of not less than nine million dollars in taxes on the whisky seized or accounted for in bonds having run away, and losses on the reduced manufacture incident to the ill-considered programme of the Department and the short-sighted manner of carrying it out. The most serious results from this course is the prospect of a considerable deficit in the revenues from internal taxation, so largely dependent upon spirits. In the State of Missouri alone, where the reuenue from this source amounted to fully two million dollars, the receipts of the Government from the whisky tax are now literally nothing. It is believed in high official quarters that a much wiser and more profitable course pecuniarily would have been to have compromised these whisky cases by requesting the payment of the duties on the bulk of the illicit whisky known to have been manufactured. This would have turned large sums into the coffers of the Government, whereas the plan carried out has yielded nothing except the sums realized from the sale of distilleries, machinery and material, which has not amounted to the smallest fraction of what would have been realized from the other course. These distilleries in a sale might bring ten thousand dollars each, in all probability bought up by or for the former owners. It is further stated that when all the accounts of money expended in the trial of the four persons convicted come in, judging from those already received, it will be found that these trials have cost the Government not less than $200,000 apiece. To these may be added the expense of the unsuccessful trials and those being carried on in Chicago, and we have an aggregate outlay which will appall the public when they learn the facts. After all the halo of glory which has invested the demonstrations against the whisky ring, it will soon have to be admitted that the Government paid dearly for the whistle, and that a judicious compromise would hove turned money into the vaults.

Mexican Border Outrages.

Representative Schleicher, Chairman of the Select Committee on Outrages on the Mexican Border, states that he does not agree with General Sherman, that with the recruitment of two regiments of cavalry up to the war standard it would be practicable to suppress the predatory incursions of armed bands of Mexican outlaws from the south bank of the Rio Grande. He states that General Sherman has never been along this frontier, and therefore is not familiar with the physical difficulties which troops would have to encounter in attempting to conduct operations solely on the American side. He states that along the American bank is a dense thicket, termed chaparral, two hundred miles in length and fifteen miles wide, through which, at certain points narrow paths leading from the Mexican shore have been opened. He says it would be impossible to pass from one of these to another, and that these Mexican bands might be within a hundred yards of our troops and yet be not only hidden from view but perfectly secure against attack. For this reason the only plan of operations which would be likely to insure success, he thinks, is the one proposed in his report on these disorders, and approved by the Secretary of State as indispensible to the protection of our own citizens, and as the only effective means of retaliation against these outrageous violations of the sacredness of American territory. The Secretary of State has on repeated occasions notified the Mexican Government of these lawless proceedings, and insisted that the United States would be driven to the necessity of devising the best means of protection, no matter if it did lead to operations on Mexican soil. He proposed that a certain section should be set apart in which United States troops might patrol for the common preservation of the quiet of this region. The Mexican Government, however, declined the interposition, on the ground of lack of authority to enter into such an arrangement. The south bank of the river is more suitable for military movements, and hence its defensible character better. In regard to these Mexican revolutions, Mr. Schleicher, who, after many years' residence in Texas, has become thoroughly familiar with the border question, says that a large share of the population of Mexico make a living by revolution; that leaders like Porfirio Diaz and other revolutionary heroes of lesser magnitude raise a revolution on some pretense or other, and make it pay, after which, after they retire and keep quiet as long as this lasts; but when they find themselves again getting short of funds, they draw their swords and resume their predatory warfare. Therefore, it is his opinion that this is the only means of putting an end to it for the United States to protect its own citizens and soil without reference to what might under other circumstances be recognized as infractions of international obligations; that the pursuit of these armed bands into Mexican territory until captured, then disarming them, would alone bring peace and security. This plan is sustained by Generals Sheridan and Ord, of the army, and Generals Banks and Hurlbert, now members of the House of Representatives, both of whom have served on the Mexican frontier. The consideration of Mr. Schleicher's bill has been set for next Tuesday.

Chinese and Japanese Indemnity Funds.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations having decided in favor of the restoration of the Chinese and Japanese indemnity funds, which amounts, with accumulations thereon, to about one hundred thousand dollars respectively, are opposed to the granting of any part of the sum to the naval officers who participated in the engagements which forced those Governments into the payment of that money. Repeated efforts have been made to secure a portion of these amounts to the officers of the vessels engaged in the fight. The claims of the officers have many advocates in both Houses of Congress, but with this new opposition their chances of success are extremely doubtful.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 16, 1876.

The United States Treasurership.

Treasurer New has promised the President to hold on to July first. The office has been offered to three gentlemen, who will not accept.

Custer to be Court-Martialed.

It is understood that charges prepared here in Washington have been forwarded to General Ferry, in order to have a court-martial on General Custer.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 17, 1876.

The Habeas Corpus Question.

After the discussion of the report of the majority of the Judiciary Committee, that in answering the writ of the Court the Sergeant-at-Arms should have the body of the witness Kelbourne, the committee was defeated by a vote of 2 to 1, thus recognizing the authority of the Court to issue the writ while denying the right of the Court to take the witness out of its hands. Of the negative votes on the proposition as previously stated, all were Democrats except Hoar and Lawrence. One-third of the negative vote was south of the Potomac and Ohio. It was expected that the majority report of the committee would finally dispose of this question by bringing about the issue by the court of an order holding the Sergeant-at-Arms in contempt for the action of the body. An appeal would then be made to the Supreme Court of the United States, where the whole question will be reviewed. It is believed that the Court will remand Kilbourne to the custody of the House, as in the case of Irwin.

The United States Depository in Pittsburg.

The refusal of the House to restore the United States depository at Pittsburgh does not finally dispose of that question. It is intimated that Treasurer New, in a communication to the Senate, will urge the retention of the depository as essential to the interests of the Government at that point. It will doubtless be acted upon as a Senate amendment to the bill. A dispatch received by Pittsburgh parties in favor of its retention will be sent here by the Clearing House and banks of Pittsburgh.

The Question of Adjournment.

The House Committee on Appropriations to-day had an informal discussion of the state of the business of the House and of the appropriation bills, with a view to adjournment. There was no considerable diversity of opinion. Some thought that with expedition an adjournment would be reached early in June. The majority, however, do not so speak, and are confident that they could not get away before July. The fact is, the Democrats are very uneasy about their nominations and election, and are not disposed to linger long, even to place themselves on the record on some of the national issues. The Republican members do not feel the same anxiety as to being in the majority; they are not responsible for the control of the business of the House, nor for the management of questions of importance yet to be acted upon.

The Opening Ceremonies

of the Belknap impeachment attracted a vast concourse in the galleries of the Senate Chamber. In the diplomatic gallery was Lady Thornton and other ladies and several gentlemen of the foreign legations. On the floor of the Senate, next the judge in the case, in the chair of the President *pro tem.*, and on his right the Chief Justice who had been escorted in to swear the Senators who were absent at the last meeting, and was escorted back before the proceedings commenced. On the left, at a table placed in the area in front of the Clerk's desk, sat the managers on the part of the House, and opposite on the right, the alleged offender in person and his counsel, Messrs. Jere. Black, Carpenter and Blair. Without the concentric rows of Senator's seats, sat the House of Representatives in a body. At an early hour General Belknap appeared in the office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court and took the proper time was escorted into the Senate Chamber by his counsel. The accused was dressed in a full suit of black. His fine figure showed to good advantage, but his face showed traces of his sensibility to the disgrace attending his downfall. Carpenter, the master of ceremonies on the occasion, was also dressed in black, and so contrasted with his customary *negligée* as a Senator that his friends were obliged to take a second look to assure themselves of his identity. After the plea of the defense was handed in, denying jurisdiction, the prosecution asked until Wednesday to reply, which was granted. The court then adjourned. As Belknap left the Chamber, not a Senator deigned to notice him. At the door several Republicans took him by the hand.

A Harvest for the Banks.

The national banks, in the belief that the Resumption act will not be repealed, are reaping the benefit of an advantageous moment to withdraw their circulation and redeem their bonds. About $400,000 bonds will realize $500,000, which would enable many to pay off their bad debts. Having disposed of their bonds when at a maximum under the law, they can secure a circulation whenever they wish. In addition to this, it is believed that in a few weeks they can buy four and a half per cent. bonds at less money. The largest withdrawal of circulation is at the cities of New York, Chicago and St. Louis, Pennsylvania and New England, but little. It will be seen that the banks, as a matter of interest, are carrying on contraction. Upwards of $25,000,000 contraction of circulation has been carried on in the past year, and for a single week in March it was over two millions, at that rate amounting to over eight millions a month, or twice as much as was attempted by McCulloch.

Governor Shepherd's Views on the Safe-Burglary.

Governor Shepherd, in conversation to-night, expressed his opinion that General Babcock had nothing to do with the safe-burglary. He also said he thought that Harrington had nothing to do with the inception of the plot. The Governor thinks the safe-burglary was concocted by Whitley and Nettleship and other detectives, in the hope of making capital for themselves with the District authorities.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 14, 1876.

UNVEILING OF THE LINCOLN MONUMENT.

The unveiling of the Lincoln statue at Lincoln Square was the feature of to-day's holiday. The colored population were out in full force. The procession was large, including colored troops, Knights Templar, Knights of St. Augustine, the Sons of Purity, Sons of Levi, Good Samaritans, Labor League and other uniformed benevolent associations, accompanied by music. There was an immense assemblage at the park. The statue, covered with flags, was the great object of interest. The first contribution to the statue fund was made on the morning after the assassination of President Lincoln by Charlotte Scott, a colored woman of Marietta, Ohio, who gave five dollars. The original cost of the monument, $17,000, and other incidental expenses have all been paid by subscriptions by the colored people. The last Congress appropriated $3,000 for the pedestal, and the statue was allowed

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 1876.

THE Pope has just issued another bull. This time it comes in the shape of a remark about "satiating the insatiable appetite of the revolution."

THE foreign import trade of Philadelphia, last week, amounted to $2,774,996, of which $1,801,504 was brought in American vessels, against $992,492 in foreign bottoms.

IT is denied that President GRANT has requested the discharge from the public service of the persons who were appointed at the instance of General BABCOCK. The latter, however, is still in office.

NINETY per cent. SMITH, the House Journal Clerk, who almost before he was warm in his seat tried to get up a corner on soldiers' bounty claims, is to be dismissed unless he forestalls action by resignation. Now for FITZHUGH.

CLYMER'S Post Trader Committee is said to have about petered out, and it is not probable that any more testimony, except that of General RICE and DONN PIATT, will be taken. The committee undertook to carry on too large a business on too small a capital.

ACCORDING to the New York correspondent of a Cincinnati paper, President GRANT now aspires to be President and director of Rapid Transit in that city, and to direct the construction of all the rapid transit railroads in the leading cities of this country. "Fly swiftly round, ye wheels of time, and bring the welcome day."

THE Prohibitory Assistant Democrats of Massachusetts are again organizing for a fight next fall; purposing to hold their Convention and put their ticket in the field before the two great parties, instead of after. The great non-political temperance revival which is now sweeping over that Commonwealth should, however, measurably tend to render their folly innocuous.

IN a suit brought to determine the validity of the retrocession of Alexandria to the State of Virginia, the United States Supreme Court has just decided the retrocession to have been effected by the political action of the United States and the State of Virginia. The act has been concurred in by both Governments since 1817, the State of Virginia remaining in unchallenged possession since that date.

BAGDAD is suffering terribly from the plague, which is spreading with frightful rapidity. This is the first appearance in that quarter of this terrible scourge since 1836. The medical journals of England are alarmed lest it should be conveyed from Bagdad to the Levant and thence pass to Europe. A rigid quarantine in our own ports of vessels trading with Mediterranean countries might be the part of wisdom.

THE Republicans of New York have, it appears, finally woke up to the importance of reporting a plan for redistricting the Senatorial districts of that State. This is really one of the most important subjects the Legislature is called upon to consider. As long as the Republicans can hold control of either the Senate or the Assembly the State is safe against any crude, wicked, or party legislation Democracy might attempt to pass.

IT is a suggestive fact that the seventy-five members of the lower branch of Congress who, in the case of KILBOURNE, voted to practically suspend the writ of *habeas corpus* in a time of profound peace were, with very few exceptions, the very men who during the war were so clamorous in asserting that its sacred provisions should never be violated—the copperhead element of the North, aided and abetted by the most prominent representatives of the "lost cause" now in Congress.

THE Union Pacific Railroad is making a stubborn fight against any interference by Congress to compel it to carry out its contract with the Government in good faith, and the chances are that nothing will be done this session, unless the House Judiciary can initiate such a counter-move and decision than it has yet done. The evident purpose of JAY GOULD is to tire Congress out and drive the Government into a ruinous compromise. It looks, too, as though the cunning conspirator would be successful.

THE foreign commerce of New York, last week, was: Merchandise imports, $5,063,422; produce exports, $4,523,402, and specie $853,320. The total imports of merchandise since the first of January, this year, were $60,186,871, against $117,094,936 for the corresponding period in 1875, and $139,940,777 in 1874. The total exports of produce during the same period were $69,336,952, against $66,752,418 in 1875, and $79,004,459, in 1874, and the total exports of specie have been $15,327,065, against $17,665,348 last year, and $9,654,927 in 1874.

THE mud embargo in the Western States still continues. In Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa, it is stated, so complete a stoppage of travel on all the country roads was never before known. This untoward condition of things has lasted all winter, and has undoubtedly helped to swell the great increase of failures during the last three months as compared with the same period last year. How large the increase has been in the West is indicated by the fact that while the aggregate failures in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan, in the first quarter of 1875, were 258 in number, with liabilities of $4,976,792, in the first quarter of the present year they were 524 in number, with liabilities to the aggregate amount of $11,721,331, thus showing an increase of about 140 per cent.

THE transfer by the widow of A. T. STEWART of the whole of his immense property except the New York real estate to Judge HILTON, in consideration of the legacy of one million left to him, is generally regarded by the New York press as a mysterious transaction, and they call upon him to take, without delay, measures to convince people that Mr. STEWART'S well known plans for public bequests will certainly be carried out. They are evidently not inclined to take general assurances or mere words for this, but something more will be needed. Judge HILTON, it is said, never sympathized much in STEWART'S scheme of a home for working women, nor has he any proper conception of what a man of great wealth owes to the people among whom he has made his fortune.

MR. RANDOLPH TUCKER, of Virginia, expresses the firm conviction that each State can, in the exercise of its police power, open the United States mails and take therefrom whatever it may think its citizens should not be permitted to read. By the same process of reasoning each State can enter the railroad cars, or other public conveyances, and eject therefrom any passenger whom it may deem obnoxious, simply upon its own motion and in the entire absence of any charge against the person or persons ejected. This is running the doctrine of States rights into the ground. If the States possess the right to plunder the mails, they possess the right to close the custom houses, and the internal revenue offices, and the land offices, to suppress the United States courts, and to nullify any act of Congress. The police power of a State, according to TUCKER, is above every other power. Such is the latest phase of Democracy.

A NEW temperance movement has just been organized in England with the Archbishop of Canterbury for its head. The motto of the society is "Temperance, not Total Abstinence," and it is somewhat singular to find them fraternizing with distillers, and brewers, and publicans. They recently held a joint meeting, when the most earnest advocates of the society were these three classes, whose business, one would suppose, would be dangerously affected by the operations of any temperance society. The President of the Royal College of Physicians has just declared that in a climate like that of London the human constitution absolutely requires alcoholic stimulant. It is pretty certain that, so long as the water supply of that city is of its present filthy character, nobody will drink water who can possibly obtain any other liquid. Yet the Government fritters away its time in making empresses, instead of regulating this vital necessity.

REV. THOMAS K. BEECHER professes to believe that "while the world stands votes will be bought and sold in a democracy; that as a large number of voters cannot vote wisely, it is better for honest capitalists to buy their ballots for cash, than for dishonest party men to purchase them with bribes and lies," and that therefore all bribery laws ought to be abolished. This is a deadly doctrine. The elements of safety in a democracy are freedom, intelligence, the distribution of property and the diffusion of conscientiousness. The moral tone must be strengthened in proportion as the political life is relaxed. What is needed is that we should go back, in our apprehension of democracy, to the practical acknowledgment of the democracy that is more truly a theocracy, by the exaltation of conscientiousness to its true place, writing it on popular reforms, on ballot boxes, on bank vaults, on the very dust of the streets, and making of all secular pursuits spiritual avocations. These are the true methods of duty for the political leaders of this age and land. But the doctrine of BEECHER leads down to death.

HEARSAY TESTIMONY.

General CUSTER, in his testimony before a Congressional committee, charged General MERRILL with having received a bribe of $5,000. He did not tell the committee that he had *heard* so, but made the allegation in the most positive manner, leaving the impression that he *knew* it was so, and that he was simply stating facts of the truth of which he was personally cognizant.

The publication of this charge brought out from General MERRILL a positive and direct denial, the author of it being classed by him as a wilful and deliberate liar.

This distinct denial caused the committee to send again for General CUSTER, and thereupon that successor of Captain BOBADIL shrank from his former direct testimony and said that all he knew about the case was contained in a private letter to him, the name of the writer of which he declined to disclose.

So, then, this infamous charge was based solely upon *hearsay* testimony. CUSTER knows nothing of the facts, and his correspondent is such an arrant coward that he skulks out of sight and dares not father his calumny. He finds CUSTER willing to retail the slander, and cast a shade upon the name of a far better soldier than the military peacock who thus accuses him, but the poltroon who originated the accusation is too wary to let his dirty name see the light.

There is every reason to believe that an accusation made by a man who hides behind a mask is, on its face, a lie. No true man, possessed of the knowledge that a public officer has been bribed, will be ashamed to look the world unblushingly in the face with such proof. He may, for special reasons, withhold his knowledge for a time; but when the occasion comes he will testify, if at all, in his own person and without disguise. A liar is usually a sneak; and a sneak is unworthy of belief, no matter what he says or knows.

Nearly the whole of this nasty scandal business is based upon hearsay testimony, which has trickled down from a vile fountain through a dozen conduits viler than the source, gathering more filth the longer it flows. A testifies that WILLIAMSON in his neighborhood says to that B paid C for a post tradership. He knows of nothing to substantiate that suspicion, but his neighbors have told him they *thought* so. D swears that the current belief in his place of residence is that E must certainly be in the pay of ORVIL GRANT or BABCOCK; and F is positive in the belief that his neighbors feel sure that G paid a bonus to some one for a mail contract. It must be so, you know; for how else could he get it? and what must be, is. Quieting himself with this silly logic, F is quite ready to swear that G is corrupt.

With this wretched tittle-tattle, unsupported by any direct testimony, the committees of Congress have been wrestling for months, and the public ear has been vexed with scandalous suspicions based solely upon libels sworn to by men who know nothing about the facts. The very air is infected with the miasma of falsehood; and when a current lie is traced to its origin, it almost invariable turns out that the authority for it is some concealed assassin, who hides himself securely and leaves to such scavengers as CUSTER the task of gathering up and exposing such filth as he has left in their way.

It is some consolation to know that CUSTER is to be court-martialed, and will feel the stern hands of his brother officers laid upon him for the slanders he has retailed about General MERRILL. He has undoubtedly been guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman; and if he is found guilty and cashiered, the public will be relieved from a brawler that will make him as much an object of contempt and scorn as was CAIN, who murdered his brother.

THE Confederacy has not yet got full swing in Congress, but its influence in the Lower House shows what the people may expect if the Democracy should carry the next national election. The Washington correspondent of the Buffalo *Commercial Advertiser* gives the facts to show that at the very first opportunity they turned out some two hundred and fifty odd faithful to a consistent and intelligent officers of the House, solely because they were Republicans, and filled the vacant places with Democrats, solely on account of politics, and with little, if any, regard to fitness. Nearly all the subordinate officials are obscure men, and there is no means of obtaining much of their record except from the "remarks" opposite the name of each on the pay rolls, which are made up expressly to deceive. Even the old colored man employed in the basement to scrub the bath-tubs was turned out to make room for a healthy young white Confederate of eighteen, who was "too young" to serve in the rebel army. Of the Southern members of the House, seven of the eight Alabama representatives are simon-pure Democrats, every one of whom has a rebel record which in any other country would send him to prison instead of to the halls of national legislation; the remaining member being a colored Republican every square inch of whose back is ridged with the welts of slave-whips. Arkansas has three Congressmen; two of whom were colonels, while a third was a general in the rebel army. The Democrats of Georgia have shown their respect for the "lost cause" by sending the ex-Vice President of the Confederacy to represent them in the House. Associated with him are six other ex-rebel officers, while both of the Senators from that State belong to the same crowd. The delegations of all the other Southern States, where the Democrats are in the ascendancy, is made up of the same material. Virginia is represented by seven ex-Confederate officials, North Carolina by six, Mississippi by three, Missouri by three and Tennessee by five. The Texas Democracy selected the ex-Confederate Postmaster General, a general and a colonel as their representatives in Congress. Their brethren in Kentucky were somewhat circumscribed in the choice of active rebels, but they showed their good will for the cause by choosing ex-Confederate Colonel S. C. BLACKBURN, who left his State and went South during the war, because Kentucky would not haul down the national ensign and run up the rebel flag. He is one of the recognized leaders of this Democratic House. The *Advertiser*, speaking of this rebel element and of these rebel appointments, says, forcibly enough:

"The same spirit controls the investigations now in progress. Those who believe that they are had for the purpose of laying plain facts before the country are laboring under a delusion. The sole desire of the Democratic majority is to blacken the fair fame of men who have been faithful to the Government in every emergency. Witnesses, whose evidence would not be received in a court of justice, are allowed to make *ex parte* statements against Republicans. Those are sent broadcast throughout the land as facts, while the wrong-doings of Democrats are concealed as much as possible."

APROPOS of the statement that eight persons have become insane through the preaching of the Evangelist MOODY during the Hippodrome revival services, which terminate to-day, few people are aware of the number of lunatics who become such from the effects of "religious excitement." In the eleventh annual report of the Massachusetts State Insane Asylum, written by Dr. WOODWARD, the Superintendent, there is a statistical statement of the number of patients in that institution made insane by different causes. It appears by this table that "intemperance" is usually the most ordinary cause of insanity. But the next most prolific cause of insanity is "religious revivals" or excitement. In ten years, from 1833 to 1843, there were more made insane from intemperance than religion. But during the last named year, a remarkable one for "revivals," something similar to the present year, there were more than "double" the number driven to insanity by religion than intemperance, the ratio from the table being: "Intemperance" six and one-fourth per cent., "Religion" twelve and three-fourths per cent. In the same report there is a table showing the causes of insanity in ten different asylums in the United States. In several of these religion was more fruitful than intemperance. In the Hartford Asylum, Connecticut, in 1856, there were insane from intemperance 103, and from religion 110. In the Ohio Asylum, in the same year, there were 22 cases of insanity resulting from intemperance, and 54 from religion. In the Bloomingdale Asylum the rates were: Intemperance 19, religion 14. In ten asylums, of the whole number of patients, 374 were insane by religious excitement, and 90 suicides were attributed to the same cause. The probability is, however, that none of these persons had well-balanced minds, the revivals not being to blame, but the feeble intellect giving way under them.

CHICAGO has experienced a political new birth, a new recognition of the responsibilities which citizenship imposes, and has swept the "bummer" element in politics, by which it had so long been domineered out of sight. By devoting a few hours to the polls on Tuesday, the people of that city effected an entire change in the municipal government, took it out of the control of ballot-box stuffers and plunderers and placed it where it belongs, in the hands of the citizens. Chicago will now have a longer or shorter season of good government. Its duration will depend on the tax-payers themselves. One election is by no means decisive. What is required is a steady, persistent, uncompromising effort in behalf of good men and good government. Tax-paying alone does not by any means constitute the whole of citizenship. There are other and more responsible duties to be remembered, the chief duty being that of voting for honest and good men and for the preservation of free institutions. The sentiment of patriotism is too sadly lacking in many quarters and among certain classes; but if there was ever a country under the sun that needed an influx of this spirit of patriotism it is this American nation. If men do not transmit this heritage of good government, derived from their fathers, to their children, they are false to their fathers and recreant to their duties as citizens. Chicago had reached a serious crisis in its affairs, and the outcome ought certainly to have an influence for good in all cities in the country where the integrity of the ballot is threatened.

THE House of Representatives in the KILBOURNE case has backed completely down from its high pretensions and voted, on Tuesday, to respect the writ of *habeas corpus* by surrendering KILBOURNE to the custody of the courts. It is now the duty of the courts to say what course Congress has a right to imprison a contumacious witness. An act of Congress, passed some years ago to meet just such cases as this, provided that the refusal of a witness to testify before a Congressional committee, should be treated as a penal offense, and it is made the duty of Congress to hand the delinquent over to the courts for trial under indictment, and for punishment if found guilty. The House, consequently, has no power to imprison such witnesses; and if it had refused, as the Democratic leaders wished, to surrender KILBOURNE under the writ of *habeas corpus*, it would have provoked a conflict between itself and the courts, backed by the power of the Government, which could have ended only in the surrender of the silly pretensions of the Democratic leaders. Fortunately for the House, a majority of its members had too much sense to be caught in such a trap. By a vote of two to one the House has determined to respect the highest writ of right known to the American people, and the hot-heads who would have violated the Constitution have been saved from their folly by the cooler judgment of their colleagues.

THE wisest soothsayer is the heart of a brave man. The zeal of the late A. T. STEWART for the Union was unquestionably sincere, but it had some remarkable elements of speculation in it. He scorned to desert the country where in peace he had made his great fortune, but he nevertheless expected to make a greater one by the war, and he did. The New York correspondent of the Springfield *Republican* relates the following interesting story concerning one of his main strokes:

On the day that the war began, a clerk who first got the news, frightened out of his usual awe of his employer, came rushing into the inner shrine of Stewart, pale and panting. "Mr. Stewart, they are firing on Fort Sumter—the war's commenced." Mr. Stewart sent him to call the heads of his business together. "How much blue cloth have we got in the store?" They told him. "Go and buy all there is in the market, and order all you can here of us in the factories." The man started. "How many shirts and stockings have we got?" So many. "Well, buy up the whole stock in the country that you can find." His people thought he had gone crazy, but he went on to give the same order about other supplies for an army, and when, a week afterward, every Northern man was in the market buying blue cloth and army shirts and blankets, it was found that Stewart had "cornered" that whole class of goods.

Of course he made a fortune out of it; but such strokes show the nature of the man, and explain why wealth came rolling in upon him.

WHEN the House Committee on Rules gets through with the investigation of Ninety per cent. SMITH, the Journal Clerk, it will have another task in the investigation of charges brought against Doorkeeper FITZHUGH, who was Sergeant-at-Arms of the Confederate Senate. There are, it is positively asserted, in the possession of a Republican member of Congress certified copies of three indictments found against FITZHUGH in Kentucky several years ago. One, it is charged, is for arson, another for perjury in having sworn falsely in order to obtain a postponement of his trial for arson, and the third charges him with grand larceny. These indictments, it is reported, will be read in the House shortly, and some action will have to be taken in his case. It is also stated that still another officer of the House was once convicted of an infamous crime, and that the circumstances thereof will be brought before that body in due time. There is a growing feeling among the Democrats that this investigation business is being pushed too far, the investigators being a good deal like the man that had the bear by the tail, and wanted to let go, but couldn't.

A STATISTICAL correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette* improves the occasion of A. T. STEWART'S death to philosophize upon the remarkable increase of wealth in this country during the past three decades. The following are the returns of the value of property in the United States for three censuses:

	Value of Real and Personal Property.
In 1850	$ 7,135,780,228
In 1860	16,159,616,068
In 1870	30,068,518,507
Increase from 1850 to 1860	120 per cent.
Increase from 1860 to 1870	90 per cent.

This makes the average amount to each individual in 1870, 233 per cent. greater than it was in 1850, an increase largely beyond the ratio of increase in population. This additional wealth, however, has not gone mainly to those whose labor has made it, but to middlemen and capitalists. The great mass of laborers who, according to the political economist, really create wealth, seldom accumulate any considerable property. Whether there is any remedy for this condition of things is one of the great unsolved problems of society.

THE decision, on Monday, of the United States Supreme Court in what have been known as the "Illinois railroad cases," in which several highly important questions concerning taxation were chief among which is the affirmation of the principle that a corporation must pay what it admits to be due before it can possibly be exempt from paying the remainder of any tax assessed against it. This seems sound, since otherwise a corporation possessing millions of dollars' worth of property might wholly escape taxation if it were able to prove that the valuation placed upon it were too high, or some small portion of the total amount were not liable to taxation. A number of such injunctions have been granted in the United States Circuit Court of California, and there were no less than seventy-five suits pending in Illinois to enjoin the collection of taxes assessed against lands and other property of railroad companies, representing perhaps one-third of the entire taxable property of the State.

There is a lively competition for freight and passengers between the native steamship line in Japanese waters and the steamers of the English Peninsular and Oriental Company. The Japs have reduced passage rates to a cent a mile, and freights to a dollar a ton for a thousand miles.

The Wisconsin Fish Commissioners have a project which is quite timely in view of the threatened failure of the white fisheries in Lake Michigan. They propose to hatch and put into the lake ten or twelve millions of white fish every year.

Dom Pedro is the first Catholic Emperor on record to attend a Protestant revival meeting.

A ROBBER'S STRATAGEM

A Footpad, Disguised as a Woman, Tries to Rob a Stage Coach but Fails.

On the evening of Wednesday, April 12th, as the stage plying between Honesdale and Hamilton, Pa., had entered the long and dismal woods north of Middle Valley, and had nearly reached the iron bridge, Mr. Oliver Wilcox, the driver, saw what he supposed to be the figure of a woman, standing by the wayside, beckoning him to stop, which he did. The figure then asked in a strangely masculine voice to ride to Middle Valley. Mr. Wilcox sprang to the ground to assist the figure enveloped in petticoats aboard, but before he could proffer assistance, a large hand threw open the coach door, and a very large foot, incased in a heavy boot, was placed upon the step. Wilcox saw the hand, saw the foot incased in a heavy boot, and shot a glance at the face of the would be passenger. It was a strange face for a female; although enveloped in a veil a beard was perceptible. It was but a second, and the sharp-sighted mail carrier acted upon the instant. "Wait a moment please, until I arrange the lap robes," said Wilcox, in the most careless manner possible. The large foot was withdrawn and the figure once more stood in the road. Wilcox placed his foot firmly in the step and bending over, as if to arrange the robes, chirped to his spirited horses, which flew away like the wind. Bang, bang, rang the report of a revolver upon the air, and two balls whistled in dangerous proximity to the driver's head. The driver regained his seat, and urging the horses to their utmost speed, drove into Middle Valley. Two holes show where the bullets passed through the coach. What was the intention of the person in disguise is of course mere conjecture.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

For June egg-plant, plant your hens now.

Canada is no longer troubled with Worms. Our Fish has hooked him.

Colonel Forney will soon publish his Centennial-European letters in book form.

Something novel. Miss Braddon is coming over to give readings from her stories.

The New York hotel bill of King Kalakaua has not yet been paid. It amounts to about $6,000.

Will the Republican National Convention have the courage to adopt a woman suffrage plank?

Seth Green, professor of ichthiological obstetrics, attended more than 40,000,000 cases last year.

The Philadelphia *North American* is the oldest daily journal in this country, and certainly one of the best.

The Mississippi Valley, for some distance above and below Quincy, Illinois, is under water for a width of twenty miles.

Mosby says he is out of politics. Third termism is dead, and the subsequent proceedings interest Mosby no more.

Dom Pedro is progressive. As he steamed up New York bay the first question he asked was, "Where is Plymouth church?"

Tartar justice. The Khan Fulate Bhey, the pretender to an obscure Asiatic throne now in the grasp of the Czar, has been hung.

Suggestive. Moody says he "never saw an infidel that wanted to live in a country where there were no Christians and no Bible."

Not so useless as his name implies. A Christian rebel named Uselaze, single-handed, recently flogged seven hundred Turks.

An epidemic of unknown character, resulting in almost immediate death to the victim, has broken out in China. Quarantine.

Turn it round. Last year our imports from Brazil amounted to $42,033,046, and our exports from that country to but $7,372,443.

A juicy paragraph. An orange grove at Palatka, Florida, has six thousand bearing trees, which last year made a crop that brought $80,000.

The voice of the festive feline is again heard during the hours that churchyards yawn, which reminds us that this is a good time to plant cats.

The failure of the peach crop in Massachusetts is attributed to the destruction of forests in that State. Doubtless. Also Winslow's forgeries.

A Michigan church is advertised to give a "Mother Goose reception," in which forty veritable geese will take part." Home talent, you see.

Do you go to church? There are 62,532 churches in the United States, with sittings for 11,306,542 people. The total value of church property is $349,619,780.

The Japanese make bricks of such quality that they pay freight on them for 9,000 miles, pay 20 per cent. duty, and then sell them in San Francisco at a profit.

The New York *Herald* is in a fire of indignation because on the night of the 12th inst. there was no light on the Frying Pan Shoals on the North Carolina coast.

Lake Ontario is not adapted to the propagation of shad. Young shad are thrown by thousands upon the shore, dead or dying. The same thing happened last season.

All the signs indicate that serious trouble must sooner or later grow out of the competition between "cheap Chinese labor" and the white labor of the Pacific coast.

England cannot afford to bring water from the Welsh mountains to London, and yet France has just completed an aqueduct 150 miles in length for the supply of pure water to Paris.

Nothing exhibits the retrenchment of the nation more sharply than the fact that our imports from Great Britain are more than $100,000,000 less than they were in 1872, a fall of thirty-seven per cent.

One of the Philadelphia papers speaks of the arrangement of the United States flags illustrating the formative process of our national emblem, as a fine display of the flags of all nations. This is Centennial journalism.

The Comstock lode is undoubtedly the richest mining region in the world. Discovered in 1859, it has since yielded not less than $280,000,000, and this with very imperfect machinery for the greater part of the time.

In a Kansas divorce suit, the other day, a man's nose was offered in evidence to prove him a drunkard. The evidence was there, but was not taken by the Court. The party who suggested its introduction wears one of his eyes in a sling.

PERSONAL.

John B. Felton, a San Francisco lawyer, is a lucky man. He gained a great mining suit some time ago, and was paid a fee of $1,000,000. Wonder how he Felton that occasion.

General John A. Sutter, the original California pioneer upon whose estate gold was discovered, is in very reduced circumstances. General Sherman and several hundred other forty-niners are petitioning Congress to give him a pension, or rather to repay him for supplies and medicines furnished sick and destitute miners.

The *Anglo Brazilian Times*, in an article warmly praising the Emperor Dom Pedro, makes the following statement of his purposes: "His Majesty ardently cherishes the hope, before he finishes his mortal career in this world, of totally abolishing slavery in the Empire, without causing convulsions or reducing to misery both the planters and their former slaves."

Standing alongside of General Logan on the rostrum at the unveiling of the Lincoln statue, at Washington, last Friday, was Louis Clark *alias* George Harris, who saw the negro Tom whipped to death with what Tom Canaday, of Garrett county, Kentucky. Immediately afterward he crossed the Ohio on the ice and gave the particulars to Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, upon which she framed her stirring novel of Uncle Tom's Cabin.

The Cheyenne and Kiowa Indians confined in Fort San Marco, St. Augustine, recently formed a plot to rise on their guards, sally forth and murder the inhabitants, and, if possible, the soldiers who stay at night in the barracks, a mile distant. The plot was betrayed by one of the Kiowas. Poisoned arrows were the weapons to be used, with the addition of what guns could be obtained. The alarm is said to have caused many of the visitors in St. Augustine to make active preparations for leaving. A half-breed started the plot, and told the Indians they might obtain shelter with the Semmoles in the Everglades.

Orestes Augustus Brownson, the editor of *Brownson's Quarterly Review*, discontinued last year, died at Detroit on Monday. He had been a preacher successively in the Presbyterian, Universalist and Unitarian denominations, then became an avowed infidel, and later a convert to the Roman Catholic faith. His writings, numerous and able, followed the varying bents of his religious belief, and his death at the age of seventy-three years closed a busy life. His style was remarkably clear, terse and vigorous. He was a close reasoner and a cruel combatant, but always respected for the sincerity with which he held, and the courage with which he avowed opinions that made him unpopular and cost him dear.

The Cincinnati *Enquirer* advises the Democratic House to "let the tariff alone," because "any demonstration you (they) may make will be indiscreet."

STATE NEWS.

A cat gave birth to five kittens in a lady's lap in Reading.

A Baptist church was organized in Clarion, last week.

The small-pox has made its appearance in several parts of Berks county.

In some parts of Berks county the wells are filled with lizards and green worms.

New Castle reports twice as many births as deaths during the past three months.

A cat that will stand on its head, on one foot, turn somersaults, etc., is a Pottstown curiosity.

Philadelphia enjoys the enviable reputation of being the second healthiest large city in the world.

James Galbraith, arrested at Lewistown some time ago on a charge of robbing the mails, has been found not guilty.

It is stated that $10,000 have been subscribed for the establishment of a new Republican paper in Delaware county.

Walter Smith, a quarryman, was run over by a train on the Pennsylvania Railroad, near West Chester, on the 14th inst., and instantly killed.

Two hundred and fifty dollars in greenbacks were found sewed up in an old vest belonging to a gentleman who died in Edensburg a few days ago.

An aged colored woman died recently in Crawford county, who two years before her death began to turn in color; and at last became as white as any one.

Mrs. Shrump, of Winfield township, Butler county, was knocked down by a cow a few days ago, and so badly injured that she died a few hours later.

Henry J. Arms, aged eighty-three years, was tried in Berks county on a charge of assault and battery with intent to ravish. He was only convicted of assault.

Joseph Powell died suddenly in Jackson township, Northumberland county, a few days ago, under circumstances which lead to the belief that he was poisoned.

A Tamaqua printer set up "the fun will take place," instead of "the funeral." He forgot about the "eral" in the next line and the proof-reader failed to see it.

On Wednesday evening a fourteen-year-old daughter of Henry Purcell, above Minersville, Schuylkill county, was struck by lightning. She is slowly recovering.

The fifth annual reunion of the Tenth Regiment, Pennsylvania Reserve Volunteer Corps, will be held at Franklin, Venango county, on Wednesday, May 17, 1876.

The body of a German named Frederick Fisher was found in an old well near Guth's station, in Lehigh county. It is not known whether he was drowned by falling in or committed suicide.

Barton Gabel, aged eighteen years, of Berks county, attempted to wheel a gross ton of pig iron in three wheelbarrow loads. He ruptured a blood vessel, and his condition is precarious.

A number of the Black Hills expeditionists from Scranton have returned disgusted with their experience. They report affairs very discouraging and as many men returning as there are going.

Osborne, the tramp quack who caused the death of Mary A. Jennings, in Crawford county, by giving her medicine for some imaginary disease, has been found guilty of involuntary manslaughter.

Mr. and Mrs. John Meloy, of Renovo, celebrated their golden wedding on the 23d ult., at the house of their son, Dr. A. Parke Meloy. The groom is seventy-seven and the bride seventy-four years old.

Archbishop Wood is anxious to compromise with the deputors of St. Bonifacius church, Philadelphia. He has made several propositions to them, the last of which will, it is stated, probably be accepted.

Mr. Wm. Wackernagel, late of the Reading *Pilger*, has accepted a call to the pastorate of the Lutheran Church at Mauch Chunk. He will be ordained at the coming Ministerium of the Lutheran Church in Reading.

The following curious inscription appears on a tombstone at the Trappe, Montgomery county:—"Samiel Gilber, husband of Mary Derr, & begat 8 sons & 3 daughters. June 9, 1806; Died March 25, 1865, aged 59ye., 7 mo. & 7dys."

A well-to-do Warren county man, who committed suicide recently, left a will bequeathing five dollars to his wife, one dollar each to his children, and all the remainder of his property to an adopted daughter.

Typhoid fever and pneumonia are killing many people at Phœnixville. Ten funerals occurred in one day. Unusually fatal typhoid fever prevails along the southern slope of Conewango hills, Lancaster county.

It is a dangerous undertaking to express one's opinion of the personal attractions of a back of them) of the average Scranton feminine. One of the strong-limbed Amazons of that city cowhided a man a few days ago because he called her ugly.

In the upper end of Montgomery county, and in Coventry township, Chester county, a number of horses are suffering with epizootic symptoms. The disease does not seem to attack the animal with the same degree of severity as with the case last summer.

Very sensibly, the Philadelphia *North American and United States Gazette* has dropped the latter half of its title, and will hereafter be known as the North American. It is the oldest as well as one of the most reliable newspaper in the country. The new dress it appeared in on Monday greatly improved its appearance.

A woman by the name of Mumma was badly burned at Elwood, Schuylkill county. It seems she took a can of coal oil on fire, and in attempting to extinguish it the woman's clothes took fire, and before assistance could reach her, was severely if not fatally burned. It is reported that her limbs are roasted.

The importance of witnesses being promptly in attendance at court was shown in Reading on Tuesday by some twenty or more attachments for witnesses having gone out soon after the opening of the court in the morning. These witnesses were brought into open court and compelled to pay the costs of the attachments.

A man named Cosgrove had been running a "crooked" distillery under the guise of a tannery, and was discharging the whisky away in bales of hides and leather, near Mercer. Last week J. C. Brown, Collector of Internal Revenue, swooped down upon him, making contraband the apparatus and liquor, valued at $5,000. Cosgrove escaped.

There appeared last week in the obituary columns of the Philadelphia *Ledger* notices of the deaths of twelve persons—seven men and five women—who had lived to or beyond the advanced age of eighty years, as follows: David Francis, 80; Hannah S. Parry, 83; Margaret W. Tauser, 83; Eunice D. Stiles, 84; Mary Dougherty, 85; Charles Vautier, 86; Jacob Fitzwater, 87; George Spencer, 89; John Curtis, 90; Thos. Bowen, 91; Sarah Moore, 93, and Daniel Bastable, 100.

The reports of the farmers are very encouraging concerning the crops of the present season. The fears that the open winter and the unprotected ground might prove disastrous to fruits and cereals do not, happily, seem likely to be realized. The reports from the great grain and fruit regions of this State are very favorable. It looks as if we might expect a year of abundance. If this shall prove the case, it will be the gladdest celebration of our Centennial.

The Pottsville *Chronicle* says that a man named Hoffman is now in the almshouse of Schuylkill county who has painted in oil a picture of the buildings and grounds, not omitting the famous barn. The picture is well executed in bright colors, and hangs in the office of the institution, and is shown to visitors as the handiwork of an inmate. He was formerly an inmate of the Berks county almshouse, and is said to be a foreign nobleman, traveling *incog.*, and spending time in different almshouses in order to study different phases of human nature.

A correspondent of the Reading *Eagle* writes: John Dixon, of Kutztown, a well-known citizen, died this week. A curious incident is related. Mr. Dixon was sitting in a storeroom at Kutztown some time ago, when a young man stepped up to him and said that he would not outlive April, although at that time Dixon was in the best of health. Another man came in and said that Dixon's time was nearly at an end, and that by the 15th of this month he would be a corpse. The prophesy only proved too true. The man lies cold in death. It is not known whether the jesting prophesy troubled him or not.

We have every assurance, says the Bedford *Inquirer*, that this will be the best spring season we have ever had. Our hotel and boarding house proprietors have more orders for rooms, earlier in the season, than ever before. In fact, except the Springs hotel, all the houses will be opened this season on the first of May. The Springs hotel we learn will not be opened until the first of June, notwithstanding they have a number of applications for rooms at an early date. We are glad to learn that all the houses are increasing their facilities for accommodating guests, and we have no doubt that one and all will be fully repaid for their investments.

The Allentown *Register* says: "A man residing at Rattlesnake Hill, a few miles from Pottsville, owns a horse that acts in an unaccountable manner, and a noted witch doctor has prescribed the following remedy: The horse must be taken for three successive Fridays beyond the jurisdiction of the person who has bewitched it, and be powowed in a certain manner. The whole proceeding must be gone through with before daylight, and not a word must be spoken by its owner during the process, or in going from the place where the powowing is done. The deluded man actually put faith in the remedy, and is striving to cure his animal by following the directions given him."

PHILADELPHIA.

Some Reflections on the Centennial.—Mistakes and Imperfections in Abundance, but a Grand Show Nevertheless—The Horrible Fares Charged—About Hotels and Their Rates—The Prices of Tickets on Steam Railroads Thought to be Too High—The First Excursion—The Great Engine.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

PHILADELPHIA, April 15, 1876.

If we close our eyes and our senses all to the scenes by which we are surrounded, and contemplate the events which have led to the great commemorative festival which is already inaugurated, the mind fails to grasp the process by which the most simple and apparently unimportant causes have led to such wonderful changes and such stupendous results. From this contemplation we open our eyes again to look upon the preparations for the display and the immediate personal, and the scene is no less striking in its visible proportions, or incomprehensible to these reflective faculties, which strive to analyze and comprehend the details of the symbols. Our existence as a nation is a marvelous evidence of the world's progress and of the result of Christianity, and it is now epitomized and made tangible upon the banks of the Schuylkill. We have no national name, and we need none; we are truly cosmopolitan; we are made up of all nations, and our manners and customs partake of characteristics of each; in this representative situation we are criticised by our brethren throughout the world; in no other place could each so completely divest itself of prejudice of race and education, and there is all around us ample evidence that the hypothesis is well based. Philadelphia—the name itself is propitious and a good omen; the English Quaker founded upon the Greek the basis of their appellative, and the world now meets and approves the choice.

So much for salutatory; the material for correspondence is abundant, and all of more or less interest for some; to select the salient features for the readers of the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be all that can be accomplished—all that reasonable readers will require; and there will be many occurrences that will escape the most indefatigable. The privilege of criticism is conceded to each and all. Each one can see the imperfections and hear all the denunciations of every thing connected with this grand Exposition, and one would have no time or taste for anything else. There are imperfections, mistakes and incongruities on every hand in abundance; it would not be human otherwise. The Exposition is no less interesting or instructive because all is not perfect, and the journalist must grasp things as he finds them to be truthful, or even interesting.

The city has been in a ferment with "Centennial on the brain" for such a length of time, that there appears to be an absolute lull in the excitement in many directions, especially amongst those interested in the preparations, as general directors, exhibitors, contractors, &c. To those engaged in pursuits more immediately with the Exposition, mechanics, laborers and idlers generally, the excitement has by no degree culminated. The street railroads are reaping a rich and bountiful harvest; whenever the gates are not resolutely closed, there is a constant throng of visitors, mostly citizens, and the besieging of uncompleted buildings and other vain endeavors to penetrate the mysteries of boxes and bales, shows that the interest of the unknown and unattainable, however immense in reality, is not nearly so interesting to the curiosity seeker, than the beauties and wonders spread around with a lavish hand.

It is wonderful how many of our people think that they can keep a hotel. In the great number which have sprung into existence, not only near the Exposition grounds and throughout the city, but within a radius of one hundred miles, public houses are preparing to entertain Centennial visitors. Our brethren in New York anticipate that the great bulk of visitors from a distance will lodge and take breakfast and supper in that city, requiring a few hours daily at the Exposition. This will be consoling to those who are compelled to board near the scene. The hotels near the grounds are a remarkable and interesting feature by themselves, and will no doubt be well patronized; but the excited hopes and expectations of many will not be realized. Time only will show how many hotel and lodging house keepers was to be adopted generally, there would be the scene of Vienna re-enacted; but, fortunately, all are not so infatuated as to believe there is no limit to the amount of extortion to which the public will submit for traveling and boarding accommodations. There are good places attainable now for reasonable sum, and there will be such at all times. A few cases of extortion, however, will serve to keep hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people away. These instances, which are sure to occur, will be better advertised and far more effective than any explanation or refutation. An attempt was made in Council this week to take steps

XLIV. CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 18, 1876.

SENATE.

The Senate resolution instructing the Committee on Judiciary to inquire into the expediency of providing reasonable statutes of limitations, barring all right on the part of the United States to sue upon official bonds, with leave to report by bill or otherwise, was agreed to.

Mr. SHERMAN, from the Committee on Finance, reported favorably on the Senate bill to amend the laws relating to the legal tender of silver coin. He gave notice that he would call it up on Thursday.

The bill reported and recommended for passage by the Finance Committee in its full text as follows: A bill to amend the laws relating to silver coin.

Be it enacted, etc., That there shall be coined at the mints of the United States a silver dollar of the weight of 412 8-10 grains troy of standard silver, the emblems, devices and inscriptions of which shall conform to those prescribed by law for gold and silver coins of the United States, with such modifications thereof as may be necessary to render said dollar readily distinguishable from the trade dollar, and in the coinage and delivery thereof no greater deviations from the standard weight and fineness shall be allowed as are prescribed by law for the trade dollar; and said dollar herein authorized shall be a legal tender at its nominal value for any amount not exceeding one hundred dollars in any one payment, except for customs duties and interest on the public debt, and the trade dollar shall not hereafter be a legal tender.

Sec. 2. That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to exchange the silver dollars herein authorized for an equal amount of United States notes, which shall be retired and cancelled, and not be again replaced by other notes, and all United States notes redeemed under the act shall be held to be a part of the sinking fund provided for by existing law, the interest to be computed thereon as in case of bonds redeemed under the act relating to the sinking fund.

Sec. 3. Any owner of silver bullion may deposit the same at the mints, to be taken at its market value as ascertained and published by authority of the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Director of the Mint, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, and to be paid for either in silver dollars or with gold coin of the United States upon bullion for the coinage of said silver dollars may be procured in the mode provided for as to other silver coins by Section 3,529 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, the gain and wastage to be accounted for as provided in said section.

Mr. ANTHONY introduced a bill relating to the *Congressional Record* and other public documents. It authorizes the Congressional Printer to furnish copies of the *Record* and extracts therefrom to members of Congress at cost, and other public documents, etc., with ten per cent. additional thereon, and collect the money after delivery. Passed.

Mr. LOGAN, from the Committee on Finance, reported favorably on the House bill to define the tax on fermented and malt liquors.

The bill will be called up to-morrow or next day.

The unfinished business was then taken up, being the bill authorizing the repavement of Pennsylvania avenue. After debate and amendment, the bill was passed.

Mr. MORRILL, of Maine, called up the House bill making appropriations to supply deficiencies in the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876, and prior years. The various amounts proposed by the Committee on Appropriations were agreed to, among them the following: for payment of mileage to Senators who took their seats at the session convened on the 5th of March, 1875, by proclamation of the President, who were not members of the previous Congress, $6,336; for labor in the Senate, $18,000; for folding documents, $1,400; for horses and wagons for the Senate, $955.

Mr. EDMUNDS moved an amendment providing that payment for mileage to Senators should be for actual travel only. Agreed to.

An amendment of the committee, appropriating $25,000 to pay compensation and expenses of the Black Hills Commission was agreed to, also the amendment appropriating $75,500 to defray the expenses of exhibiting articles belonging to the United States at the Centennial.

Mr. SHERMAN submitted an amendment appropriating $50,000 to enable the Secretary of the Treasury to pay for stone delivered under contract for the postoffice building at Parkersburg, W. Va. Agreed to.

Mr. MORRILL, of Vermont, moved to strike out the proviso in the bill as it came from the House of Representatives, that all officers appointed by the President for Territories shall be *bona fide* citizens of the Territories respectively for which they shall be appointed. Agreed to.

Mr. ALLISON submitted an amendment appropriating $50,000 for subsistence of the Apache Indians at the Southern Apache Indian Agency, New Mexico. Agreed to.

Mr. PADDOCK submitted an amendment providing that nothing in this bill contained should be construed so as to allow compensation to members of the Black Hills Commission who are prohibited from receiving the same by the Revised Statutes of the United States. Agreed to.

The bill having been considered in Committee of the Whole, was reported to the Senate, and the question being on agreeing to the amendments made in Committee of the Whole, Mr. EDMUNDS moved to insert a further clause in regard to the payment of compensation of the Black Hills Commissioners, so as to provide that compensation should not exceed eight dollars a day for each and every of the Commissioners for the time actually employed. Agreed to.

The appropriation for the subsistence of the Apache Indians at the Southern Apache Indian Agency, New Mexico, was reduced from $36,000 to $25,000. The bill then passed.

Mr. ALLISON, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, reported favorably the bill to amend section ten of the act making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876, in regard to sureties on Indian agents' bonds, and books and accounts of Indians, etc. Calendar.

After an executive session, adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House took up the report of the Election Committee on the Alabama contested election case of Bromberg against Haralson. The report was unanimous, declaring the sitting member not entitled to the seat, after statements of the perjury of witnesses for the contestant. The report was agreed to.

The House then took up the Florida contested election case, the resolution of the majority of the committee being that Wells, the sitting member, is not entitled to the seat, and that Finley, the contestant is; the resolution of the minority being to the opposite effect. Several speeches were made, but no vote taken.

Mr. SCALES introduced a bill to refund certain direct taxes on lands collected from citizens of the late insurrectionary States. Recess till 7:40, the evening session to be for the consideration of the bill to transfer the Indian Bureau to the War Department.

EVENING SESSION.

Speeches favoring the transfer of the Indian Bureau to the War Department were made by Messrs. Culberson, Hooker and Cummings.

Adjourned.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 19, 1876.

SENATE.

The galleries were again densely crowded this morning, the ladies predominating. So great, indeed, was the rush that it became necessary to close some of the doors soon after the Senate was called to order. Cards and seats were the watchwords of impeachment, accused and counsel, were arranged as on Monday.

Immediately after the journal of yesterday's proceedings was read, the CHAIR laid before the Senate a message from the President, vetoing the act fixing the salary of the President of the United States.

The Secretary of the Senate was directed at 12:25 and at 12:30 legislative business was suspended to resume the impeachment trial.

The managers having taken their places, Mr. Lord sent to the Secretary's desk and had read the answer adopted by the House of Representatives to the plea of Belknap, to the effect that at the time of the commission of the acts charged, Belknap was an officer of the United States, and was such officer until after the House, by its proper committee, had completed the investigation into the charges against him, and were preparing for his impeachment on facts known to him when he resigned. Mr. Carpenter, for the accused, asked for a copy of the replication of the House, and until Monday next to answer.

Mr. EDMUNDS submitted an order that the respondent file his answer to the replication of the House by the 24th inst., and that the managers file their rejoinder by the 25th, and that the trial proceed on the 26th inst. Agreed to, after some discussion.

On motion of Mr. EDMUNDS, it was ordered that the Senate, sitting as a court of impeachment, adjourn until the 27th inst., at 12:30 P. M.

Legislative business was then resumed, and the House bill to define the tax on fermented and malt liquors was passed. Before the passage of the above bill, it was amended so that nothing in the act shall have the effect to change the present rules of law respecting evidence in any prosecution or suit.

Mr. MORRILL, of Maine, submitted a resolution directing the Secretary of the Interior to communicate to the Senate any information in relation to the present situation and disturbances in the Sioux reservation, and whether military force has been employed therein, and, if so, if it was by authority of the Department of the Interior, and the reason for such interposition. Agreed to.

Mr. THURMAN called up the motion entered by him several days ago, to reconsider the vote by which the bill to amend and to counting the votes for President and Vice President was passed. He said he did not think the bill which passed the Senate could pass the House of Representatives, and the result would be that there would be no new law on the subject. He believed some law should be passed. He thought there were fatal omissions in the bill which had been passed.

Mr. MORTON spoke at some length against the necessity of having a new law on the subject, and said since the bill had passed the Senate, a circumstance had been discovered which would startle the country when made public.

Mr. BAYARD inquired as to the nature of it.

Mr. MORTON said he would not mention names, but it was a case where a Vice President was counting for President, being himself a candidate, counted a false or void return in his own favor. The fact was in possession of one of the Senators from Vermont.

Mr. THURMAN said he had seen it stated in a newspaper that this Vice President, when his attention was called to the fact that the return was false, directed the Clerk to count it, and then tore up the paper. That great man never did such a thing. It was no use to conceal the name of that man. It was no less than the whose hand wrote the Declaration of Independence. It was no less a man than Thomas Jefferson. It would do now to make such a charge as that against him. He [Thurman] would wait for the production of evidence, and he ventured to say that when it was produced, there would be nothing in it to impugn the integrity of Jefferson.

After further discussion, the vote by which the bill was passed was reconsidered—yeas 31, nays 23. The bill was then placed on calendar.

Mr. MORTON gave notice that he would call it up for consideration to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. SHERMAN, the Silver bill was made the unfinished business for to-morrow.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN moved to take up the bill in relation to the Japanese indemnity fund. Agreed to. He submitted an amendment to strike out the clause instructing the President, after correspondence with the Japanese Government, and in a manner satisfactory to it, to transfer said fund, together with its increase, to the government of Japan in trust, the income thereof to be perpetually applied to the education of labor in Japan. Agreed to.

Mr. EDMUNDS moved to strike out the second section, in relation to the payment of prize money to officers and crews of the United States vessels Lycoming and Jamestown for the destruction of piratical craft in 1863 and 1864.

Pending discussion the Senate went into ex cutive session, and soon adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. LORD, Chairman of the impeachment managers, presented the replication to the plea of jurisdiction filed in behalf of Belknap. The replication was adopted and ordered to be communicated to the Senate.

The Sergeant-at-Arms reported that he had obeyed the writ of *habeas corpus* in Hallet Kilbourne's case, and that Kilbourne was discharged by the Judge into the custody of the Marshal.

Mr. BAKER, of Indiana, offered a resolution instructing the Select Committee on the Removal of Political Disabilities whether any members of a former Congress were connected with that pool while such members. Adopted.

Mr. KELLOGGHOUSE introduced a bill for refunding the interest bearing debt of the United States into United States consols bearing four per cent. gold interest, and leaving forty years for the debt incurred.

On motion of Mr. BANNING, the bill for the reduction of the army, which was the special order for to-day, was made the special order for to-morrow at one o'clock.

The SPEAKER laid before the House various Executive documents, including an immense number of reports, and a dozen huge packages, containing responses to the call for information as to shareholders in national banks.

The House then took up, the evening session to be for general debate on the bill to transfer the Indian Bureau to the War Department.

EVENING SESSION.

The proceedings in the evening session were entirely devoid of public interest. But very few members were present, and the speeches were not confined exclusively to the question of the bill before the House.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

The Turkish Insurrection.

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PORTE AND SERVIA.

VIENNA, April 19.—It is stated that the negotiations which have been pending at Constantinople since the 5th inst., between the Porte and the special Envoy of Montenegro, demand the cession of the Herzegovinian Valley as far as Mostar, beside the harbor of Spizza.

The newspapers express fears lest the Sultan raise the standard of the Prophet, thus appealing to Mahometan fanaticism.

CONSTANTINOPE, April 19.—The Minister of War has received a telegram from Mukhtar Pasha, dated Tuesday last. The Mukhtar says: We have arrived at Gatzka. Victorious engagements were fought continually during the six days occupied in the advance toward and returning from the neighborhood of Nicsic. We gained striking advantages, although the rebels, who were about 14,000 strong, were as numerous as our troops. The Prince of Montenegro openly made war upon us. About 7,000 well armed and regularly organized Montenegrins fought behind the insurgents. An official telegram from Mukhtar coincides with the foregoing, and states that Mukhtar returned to Gatzka after having the previous day taken Fort Prejeka, which is three hours' march to the northwest of Nicsic. Thirty-one Turks were killed and seventy-six wounded. The insurgent loss is unknown.

AND MUKHTAR PASHA'S DEFEATS.

LONDON, April 19.—A Reuter telegram from Constantinople says the attempt to revictual Nicsic failed. Mukhtar was compelled to retreat after reaching Prejeka.

VIENNA, April 19.—The *Tagblatt's* Gratchovo special says the insurgents drove Mukhtar northward and overtook him at Karstac, where a fresh engagement was fought.

SUCCESS IN THE GARRISON AT NICSIC—

MUKHTAR PASHA'S LOSSES ENORMOUS.

LONDON, April 20.—The Berlin correspondent of the *Times* telegraphs that the sudden abandonment of the Merv expedition by Persia is attributed to Russian influence.

A Vienna telegram reports that half the garrison of Nicsic are sick.

It is said that Mukhtar Pasha's losses during his retreat were enormous. The mountain passes were so narrow as only to admit five men marching abreast. Rocks were continually hurled down precipices upon the Turkish forces as they struggled through.

A Paris correspondent states that the Bourse was convulsed at the close yesterday by news that seven thousand Montenegrins had joined the insurgents.

THE PART RUSSIA IS PLAYING.

LONDON, April 20.—The Berlin correspondent of the *Times* says according to numerous uncontradicted statements, M. Karsoff, Russian Diplomatic agent at Belgrade, has informed his Government that the Servians mean to take the field in May. The Russian representative at Vienna has informed the Servian Minister that Servia need fear no foreign intervention. The insurgents have received considerable sums of money from Russia. These facts gradually convinced a large portion of the German press and public that the reassuring telegrams daily dispatched from Vienna and St. Petersburg ought not to be credited, and that the Russian Government is either playing a double game or else is so far influenced by Sclave parties as to be powerless to stop the insurrection.

England.

A BIT OF A RIOT IN LIMERICK.

LONDON, April 17.—A desperate fight took place in the steets of Limerick today. Messrs. Butts and O'Shaughnessy, members of Parliament for the city, had announced their intention of addressing the people from the steps of O'Connell's monument. A procession numbering some thousands consequently marched to the place. A body of Nationalists, armed with sticks, had previously taken possession of the monument, attacked the procession. The Nationalists were overpowered after a fight, in which many persons were badly wounded. The Nationalist military were under arms, but abstained from interference.

LONDON, April 18.—The *Standard's* correspondent at Limerick says the Home Rule procession numbered 4,000, and consisted of trade guilds with bands and banners. Messrs. Butt, O'Shaughnessy and O'Sullivan occupied a carriage in the line. The Nationalists were only a few hundred in number, but were well armed with stones, bludgeons and knives, and had evidently drilled for the fight. The Nationalist, in the first onset, succeeded in smashing the musical instruments and destroying the banners of the Home Rulers, but they were at last driven into a public house which was completely gutted. The cause of the riot was the discontent of the Nationalists, who form a remnant of the Fenian party, at what they declare to be the utter neglect of the Home Rule question by the so-called Home Rule leaders during the present session of Parliament. The latter intended demonstration in favor of Dr. Butt was a failure. The crowds which were expected from the country did not come in. The speeches could not be heard, as the Nationalists renewed the disturbance. More fighting was feared during the night, and there was considerable alarm, as the Nationalists are known to have revolvers. The police, consequently, were armed with cutlasses, and some arrests were made. It is thought that over one hundred persons were wounded in the riot, of whom forty are seriously and six, it is feared, fatally injured. At the meeting Butt spoke hopefully of the prospects of the cause. He pointed to the efforts of the party during the session to obtain reforms in connection with Parliamentary and municipal franchise. He declared that if Ireland had a native Parliament to foster Irish industry, Limerick and Limerick would each have Galway and Limerick packet stations.

POLITICAL.

LIBERAL REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION.

NEW YORK, April 19.—The National Committee of the Liberal Republicans is called to meet in this city on May 8th, to take action in reference to the National Convention, &c.

INDIANA DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.

INDIANAPOLIS, April 19.—The Democratic State Convention was called to order at 10:20 by General Manson, Chairman of the State Committee, and, after prayer, was organized with Hon. Thos. R. Cobb, of Knox county, as Permanent Chairman. The Committee on Resolutions not being ready to report when called on, an attempt was made to proceed with the ballot for Governor.

Hon. Wm. S. Holman, Hon. Franklin Landers and Judge Niblack being before the convention, Mr. Landers appeared in the gallery and demanded that his name be withdrawn, for the reason that he had from the first intended, and did now intend that his name and Judge Holman's should not be before the convention together. This was met with cries of "no, no," from all parts of the house, and much confusion existed for some time.

At this point the name of Hon. D. W. Voorhees was presented as a compromise candidate. An attempt was made to call the roll, but it was found impossible to do so. The Committee on Resolutions was therefore allowed the report, when another attempt at a ballot was made, the utmost confusion and excitement prevailing. Messrs. Holman and Landers were again nominated, and again withdrawn. Mr. Landers appeared in person again and peremptorily demanded that his name be withdrawn.

Jas. D. Williams, of Knox county, was here offered as a compromise, and an attempt to nominate him by acclamation was made, but the convention would not allow a vote. General M. D. Manson's name was now offered. The Chair ordered the roll called for a ballot, when Landers was again placed in nomination, it being understood that Mr. Holman's name was positively withdrawn.

The wildest excitement here prevailed, motions of all kinds being made; and the Chair being unable to control the convention, ordered the band on the stage to play, after which a ballot was commenced, the delegates voting according to preference, and not regarding the withdrawals, resulting as follows: Holman, 916; Landers, 898; Manson, 23; Williams, 28. No choice being expressed (990 being necessary). Mr. Landers again appeared in the gallery and was heard, and protesting against his name being used while votes were cast for Mr. Holman. The Chair here announced that Messrs. Holman and Landers were both withdrawn, and ordered a ballot, with Mr. Williams as the only name before the Convention. Towards the close, it being apparent that Mr. Williams had the nomination, it was then moved that Williams be declared the unanimous choice of the convention for Governor, which was carried without the result of the second ballot being announced. Isaac Gray, of Randolph, was then nominated for Lieutenant Governor by acclamation.

The following is the ticket nominated by the Democratic State Convention to-day: Governor—James D. Williams, of Knox county; Lieutenant Governor—Isaac P. Grey, of Randolph county; Judges of the Supreme Court, First district, S. B. Buskirk, of Posey county; Second district, Andrew G. Downey, of Ohio county; Third district, John Pettit, of Tippecanoe county; Fourth district, James L. Worden, of Allen county; Secretary of State—John E. Neff, of Randolph county; Auditor of State—E. Henderson, of Morgan county; Treasurer of State—Benjamin C. Shaw, of Harrison county; Attorney General—A. L. Buskirk, of Monroe county; Superintendent of Public Instruction—J. H. Smart, of Allen county; Reporter of Supreme Court—Gabriel Schmuck, of Perry county; Reporter of Supreme Court—Augustus N. Martin, of Wells county. The following is the platform adopted:

The Democracy of Indiana declare their fidelity to all the provisions of the Federal Constitution, to a perpetual union of the States, to local self-government in every section, to all public trusts and obligations, to the honest payment of the public debt, to the preservation of the public faith, to the separation of church and state, and to the pure and economical administration of the Federal, State and municipal governments. They contemplate with alarm the distress that now exists in the country, and financial ruin that impends over the people, and the corruption that pervades the public service, and they charge that these evils are due to the dishonest policy of the government, unwise legislation, vicious financial policy, the great contraction of the currency, and the extravagance and selfishness of the party in power, and its rivals who have so long held unchecked control. Inviting all who believe in and earnestly desire official purity and fidelity, the honest payment of the national questions upon a sound basis, having a regard for the interests and welfare of the whole people, and not a class, and the recognition of that principle in the future actions submitted to the arbitrament of the sword to unite with them, they declare:

First, That the civil service of the Government should be kept pure, and not be the object of personal gain, and that it is the first duty which the people owe to themselves and the Government to restore the tone of public morality which has been destroyed by all the people, and which can only be done by the election to office of honest men, who will faithfully administer the laws.

Second, The repeated exposures of corruption in the administration of every branch of public affairs call for continued and thorough investigation, not only that corrupt practices may be exposed, but that guilty parties to punishment, but also that it may be made clear to the people that their only remedy for reform is by making the Democratic party triumphant.

Third, That retrenchment and economy are indispensible in Federal, State and municipal administration, as are essential means towards relief from the burdens of the people; and we commend the efforts of the majority of the House of Representatives for the reduction of the expenses of the Government, and the reduction in salaries, and their determination to lessen the number of useless officers.

Fourth, We believe in our ancient doctrine, that gold and silver are the true and safe basis for the currency, and we are in favor of measures and policies that will produce uniformity in value in the coin and paper money of the country, without destroying or embarrassing the business interests of the people.

Fifth, We oppose the contraction of the volume of our paper currency, and declare in favor of the adoption of measures looking to the gradual retirement of the circulation of the national banks and the substitution therefor of legal tender notes issued by authority of the Government.

Sixth, We recognize with patriotic satisfaction the vast recuperative energies with which our country has enabled it to overcome that in spite of the interference of the laws of commerce which has been practiced, our currency has improved in proportion as our wealth has increased, that the sense of national and local security has been confirmed; we are, therefore, of the opinion that a natural return to specie payments will be promoted by the increase of national wealth and industries, by the assurances of harmony at home and peace abroad, and by strengthening our public credit under a wise and economical administration of our national affairs.

Seventh, The legal tender notes constitute a safe currency, and one especially valuable to the debtor classes, because of its legal tender quality, and we demand the repeal of the legislation enacted by the Republican party providing for its withdrawal from circulation and the substitution therefor of national bank paper.

Eighth, The act of Congress for the resumption of specie payments on the 1st of January, 1879, was a party measure, devised in the secret caucus of a party, and forced through the House of Representatives without the allowance of amendment or debate under party discipline; it paralyzes industry, distrusts the future, turns the laborer and producer out of employment, is a standing threat upon business men, and should at once be repealed without any unnecessary delay.

Ninth, As Democrats we may indulge in laudable pride at the great success of our common school system, which had its origin in Democratic principles, and management in Democratic measures; we will stand by and forever maintain our constitutional provision which guarantees our common schools free from sectarian influence and appropriation, and its use only to support non-sectarian common schools; and we denounce as enemies of the schools the Republican politicians who, for party ends, have sought to bring them into political and sectarian controversy.

Tenth, We believe that a license law properly guarded is the true principle in legislation upon the liquor traffic.

Eleventh, It is not the right of any political party to claim the gratitude of the living soldiers, their widows and children, the subject of partisan controversy, for such rights are most secure when protected by all the people, and are endangered only when made the political arena by demagogues; we will stand by and maintain their rights to honors, to pensions and to equal bounties, not as partisans, but because it is our pleasure and duty as citizens.

Twelfth, That the jurisdiction of the Federal courts in civil causes has been so extended as to become burdensome to the people in increased expense, and compelling them to try their causes at places remote from their homes.

Thirteenth, We approved the bill which recently passed the House of Representatives, prohibiting members of Congress and all officers and employees of the United States from contributing money to influence elections.

Fourteenth, We are opposed to the assumption by Congress of the debts of the District of Columbia, which was contracted by the late corrupt ring, and we believe the Government should pay her equal and just proportion for local improvements the same as other owners of property and no more.

Fifteenth, That the people of Indiana recognize with pride and pleasure the eminent public services of the Hon. Thomas A. Hendricks; that in all public trusts he has been faithful to duty, and in his public and private life pure and without blemish; we therefore declare that he is our unanimous choice for the Presidency of the United States.

Sixteenth, That the delegates to the Democratic National Convention this day appointed be and they are hereby instructed to cast the vote of this State in said Convention as a unit in such manner as the majority of the delegates may determine.

Seventeenth, That we are opposed to the payment of any part of the rebel debt, or to any payment whatever for emancipated slaves or the property of rebels destroyed in war.

ILLINOIS DEMOCRACY TO HOLD TWO STATE CONVENTIONS.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., April 19.—At a meeting of the Democratic State Central Committee to-day, a resolution was adopted that it is expedient to hold two State Democratic conventions, the first on the 22d of June, to select only delegates to the National Democratic Convention at St. Louis, and the other to nominate a State ticket at a date to be named hereafter.

BLAINE GETS THE MONTANA DELEGATION.

HELENA, MONTANA, April 19.—The Republican Territorial Convention, in session at Deer Lodge, Montana, to-day, instructed the delegates for Blaine. The proceedings were stormy.

CALIFORNIA TO BE REPRESENTED IN THE GREENBACK CONVENTION.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 19.—A convention has been called to meet at Sacramento on the 29th inst., to choose delegates to the National Greenback Convention at Indianapolis, May 17th.

MEXICO.

News of the Revolution—Hard Fighting Expected Within a Few Days.

GALVESTON, April 19.—A special to the *News* from Brownsville, 19th, says: The following is just received from Ringgold, 18th, 9 P. M.: The stage from Monterey, which arrived at Camargo this evening, brings the following, which may be considered reliable: The Government maintains a firm attitude. Quirago, with 500 men, is hunting for Trevino, and it is thought they met at Ramos to-day. General Pedro Martinez is expected in Monterey with 600 cavalry. Generals Avanella and Palacios are *en route* to the frontier with their respective forces. General Monterey has arrived at Camargo last with 4,000 infantry from the mountain, four pieces of cannon and funds to pay the troops. Naranjo will enter Mier to-day with 600 men. General Ramos, commanding the forces at Monterey, does not allow correspondence of any kind from the interior to pass Monterey. All telegraph lines between Monterey and Mexico are in good working order.

RIO GRANDE CITY, April 19, 3 P. M.—Mier was taken yesterday at one P. M., by Naranjo and Vera with 450 men. All the Custom House officials and employees have gone to Guerono. The citizens made no resistance, the revolutionists entering without opposition. The people are pleased at Camargo this evening. Large forces of Government troops are on the way to the Rio Grande, and some hard fighting may be looked for within a few days.

THE RED BRETHREN.

Salutary Effects of the Thrashing Given to Crazy Horse—The Indians Remarkably Docile.

OMAHA, April 19.—An official telegram to General Crook, from Fort Laramie, yesterday, conveys the information that no Indians have left either Red Cloud or Spotted Tail Agencies since the fight with Crazy Horse on Powder river. A few men went out to bring in their own people, and some of them have returned, accompanied by Northern Sioux. The Chey ennes are also coming in, and talk of going South. The indications are that the thrashing given Crazy Horse has affected the Ogallallas so favorably that they will be quiet. Major Thornburgh is of the opinion that three hundred Ogallallas would go with an expedition against Northern Indians, if they were allowed to keep what they captured. Red Cloud and Sioux have stolen their stock lately. The Indians at the agencies are remarkably docile, a few miners have been killed near the Hills lately.

HAYTI.

The Revolution Triumphant—Prominent Generals Shot.

NEW YORK, April 19.—The Haytien Consulate here has received cable advices from Kingston that the revolution in Hayti is triumphant. Domingue, the late President has fled. Vice President Ramean and Larquet, the General in command of the Government forces, have been shot. Biron Canal, who was exiled from the country, is now in Port au Prince, and it is presumed will take charge of the Government.

SUSPENDED ANIMATION.

Singular Case in Schuylkill County, Pa.

[From the Minersville Republican.]

Eldred township, this county, has developed a mystery, which, during the past ten days has had that section of the county in a sort of suspended animation, hard to account for. Samuel Hause was, or is, a man of about forty years of age, unmarried, and of the craft of jeweler or machinist—whichever was most pressing.

Saturday, last week, he was over in Deep Creek Valley putting up an engine. In the forenoon he felt unwell, complaining of a pain in the head. Arising from his seat behind the stove he started to walk out and suddenly fell down and was picked up, apparently dead. Physicians were summoned, an examination made, and he pronounced it dead. He was carried home and preparations made for the funeral. In the mean time some of the physicians who examined the body pronounced the case of mere suspended animation. Nevertheless, wise counsel insisted that life was extinct and the funeral preparations went on. On the following Wednesday at the appointed hour the services were held at the house, and the procession moved to the grave, which had been dug in the graveyard at Eldred. The coffin was lowered and the services at the grave were about to commence, when the lid was raised and Hause sat up and looked around him. He was taken out of the coffin and carried to the house, where he remained in a state of partial consciousness for several days. He is now able to be around, but is very weak. He says he remembers nothing from the time he was taken sick until he found himself in the coffin. He says he was conscious of all that was said and done around him, but was unable to move hand or foot or open his eyes. He says he heard the pronouncement of death, and the remarks of the physicians, and the preparations for the funeral, and the services at the house, and the procession to the grave, and the lowering of the coffin into the grave, and the shoveling in of the earth, and the tramping down of the earth over the coffin, and the departure of the people from the grave, and the return of the procession to the house, and the removal of the coffin from the wagon to the house, and the opening of the coffin, and the lifting of himself out of the coffin, and the carrying of himself into the house, and the laying of himself on the bed, and the gathering around the bed of the people, and the departure of the people from the house, and the return of the people to the house, and the departure of the people from the house, and the return of the people to the house, and the departure of the people from the house, and the return of the people to the house

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 1876.

THE foreign exports of Philadelphia, last week, amounted to $898,714.

THE *Bulletin of the Iron and Steel Association* learns from parties connected with several of the Bessemer steel establishments of the country that all of them are supplied with orders sufficient to keep them running to their full capacity all summer, and they are therefore confident that they will be able to run for the whole year.

THE Ohio Legislature spent three months in passing twenty-four general laws and then adjourned. The Pennsylvania Legislature is in its fourth month, and has not yet passed half a dozen general laws of any importance. Its principal business, now, is in determining how many Democratic members were implicated in taking bribes on the Boom bill.

MR. SMITH, of New Hampshire, Journal Clerk of the House of Representatives at Washington, says that when he issued circulars announcing himself as a claim agent for the collection of soldiers' bounties under the act to equalize bounties now before the House, he fully intended to resign his place as Journal Clerk, so as not to hold both positions at once. This may all be true; but he fully intended, all the same, to hold on to his place in the House while the bill was pending, and to use the influence of his place to pass a bill in which he was personally interested. As to his purpose of resigning that is clearly an afterthought. "Few die," as JEFFERSON said, "and no one re-signs."

THE February report of the Bureau of Statistics, just published, shows that during that month our imports were valued at but $38,628,319, while the exports were valued at $60,893,993. Excluding specie and bullion, the imports were $37,740,477 and the exports $54,766,828. Taking the specie value of our exports, the balance of trade in our favor during that month was nearly twelve millions in gold, or including foreign exports in the account, fully thirteen millions, rejecting the specie and bullion movements altogether. As compared with the corresponding month of 1875, our exports increased nearly fifteen per cent. in value, while the imports diminished more than twenty-five per cent. Manufactured goods have increased more than other articles.

A BILL has just been introduced in the New York Legislature which embraces an excellent idea, and might with eminent propriety be enacted into law in every State in the Union. It provides that any teacher who has been employed for an aggregate period of thirty years in any free school, high school, normal school or college in the State, which is supported wholly by public funds, may, with the consent of the Board of Education or other governing body, be retired from active service, upon an annual life pension, to be determined by such Board of Education, but not to be less than one-half of the yearly salary received at the time of retirement. In case of a female teacher, twenty-five years of service shall entitle such teacher to participate in the benefits of the act. The measure has the hearty sanction of the Regents of the University and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

THIS is the era of scandal. Every liar who can concoct a plausible story is summoned to Washington to testify, and the lie travels from Maine to Texas while Truth is putting his boots on. The idea entertained at Washington by the Democratic leaders in the same sense that was indicated many years ago by Father RITCHIE, of the Richmond *Enquirer*, upon the Virginia Democratic editors who waited upon him to learn what was to be the keynote of a then approaching campaign. The veteran RITCHIE boiled it all down into two words —"throw mud." "But suppose," said one of the party he thus addressed, "that the mud will not stick?" "Keep on throwing it," answered RITCHIE, "*some* of it will be sure to stick." This is the entire basis of the hope which animates the present generation of mudthrowers. They know that they are in a dirty business, but they have the seriousness that some of the filth they throw will be sure to stick keeps their spirits alive, and the moment one lie of theirs is exploded, they fling abroad a new one to take its place.

THE Columbus (Ga.) *Enquirer* states that Senator GORDON is perfectly confident that the cotton tax will finally be returned to the treasury of each State, "thus relieving the General Government of the trouble and expense of further distribution. Seventy millions of dollars of the tax collected have reached the Treasury. In the distribution proposed, Georgia will receive $12,000,000, Alabama about $10,000,000." How very kind! This is merely one of the Confederate jobs which it is proposed to put through, should the Democrats obtain possession of the National Government. It is an integral part and parcel of the same general conspiracy to reimburse the Southern States for their rebellion expenses. The refunding of the direct war tax is another pet idea with the same men. These schemes would take over a hundred million dollars out of the National Treasury, and greatly enrich claim agents and other jobbers who have bought up claims for refund for a few cents on the dollar. The entire purpose and design is to benefit the reactionary Southern States, which have thus far shirked, as far as they possibly could, every burden made necessary by their own rebellion. During the rage which now prevails among the Democracy to investigate the acts of Republican officials it will be more than ever the part of wisdom for the people to watch legislation with sleepless vigilance. The Democracy cannot be trusted.

THE New York papers of Thursday publish tabular statements of the foreign commerce of that port for March. The imports during the month were $32,018,867, showing a continued decline. For the last three months the total is $89,752,456, from which it appears that notwithstanding the large increase of imports in January the total for three months is below $90,000,000, being $10,000,000 less than for the first quarter of last year, $18,000,000 less than the first quarter of 1874 and $30,000,000 less than for the same period of 1873, when the total imports at that port amounted to $120,104,829. The exports for the month amounted to $26,308,303, which makes the total for the last quarter, exclusive of specie, about $4,000,000 above the corresponding figures of last year, but leaves it $6,000,000 behind the first quarter of 1874 and $2,000,000 below the first quarter of 1873. For the past nine months of the fiscal year the total importations amount to $238,160,635, as against $275,151,008 for the corresponding period last year and $285,867,645 in 1874. The aggregate exportations for the same time foot up $224,543,846, as against $246,399,551 during the corresponding period last year and $256,867,560 in 1874. New York imports about two-thirds of all the foreign merchandise landed in the country, and exports about forty-six per cent. of the total outflow of produce and manufactures, the relative proportion of the latter having increased during the last few years.

THE Boom bill investigation is about over and the committee is now engaged in making up its report. What a Democratic committee will say, when all those involved in suspicion are Democrats, is not hard to guess. The report will whitewash the suspected Democratic members, as much as it can under the adverse circumstances, and the whole affair will be treated from THORNTON'S standpoint, as a huge joke. There was no actual corruption, we will be told, and the Democratic members were only joking when they offered each other four hundred dollars apiece to vote for or against the bill.

It has been pretty well established, however, that the Journal Clerk of the House received $500 for himself in an envelope from the friends of the Boom bill; that another friend of the bill gave $300 to a member to secure his vote; and that the sum of $7,500, in a certified check, was given to the Journal Clerk to purchase the votes of fourteen members, at $500 each, to vote for the bill, the remaining $500 being for the Journal Clerk himself. The latter sum was not used, the fourteen members whose names were selected as recipients having all voted against it. The *purpose* to use it was plain, but the men failed to come to time. These facts seem pretty well established; and, unless we accept THORNTON'S theory that the whole affair was a joke, it is equally well established that the opponents of the bill freely offered $400 for each vote against the bill that was open to purchase.

It is also pretty well established that all or nearly all the men implicated in the developments are Democrats. The Journal Clerk is a Democrat; the man who gave $300 in an envelope to a member is a Democrat, and most of the members implicated are Democrats. It is a Democratic muddle, all through, and we leave that party to resp the consequences of it.

THE TARIFF.

The State Senate, on Wednesday, adopted resolutions requesting our Representatives in Congress to vote against the MORRISON Tariff bill; but the treatment the resolutions received from the Democratic side, when they were introduced, was anything but friendly. On the final vote several Democratic Senators voted for them; but the discussion showed that they were all opposed to coming to a decisive vote upon them. Mr. YERKES moved to refer them to the Committee on Federal Relations, and Mr. ALLEN declared them premature, while Mr. SHIMER thought them unnecessary. Mr. YERKES was, indeed, bold and outspoken in declaring that he was opposed to a Protective Tariff and in favor of a Tariff for revenue exclusively; and his Democratic colleagues would, many of them, have been on his side, if they had dared to act out their convictions. The Democratic party is, and of necessity must be, opposed to Protection; but those of them who live in manufacturing and iron and coal districts in Pennsylvania are permitted, from the circumstances of their position, to pretend to be friendly to Protection. Such men know and feel that they are not, while holding this position, in harmony with their party generally, and hence their anxiety to stave off any action that compels them to toe the mark on this question. If the friends of Protection expect the protective policy to be maintained, they must see, from these proceedings, that the Democratic party cannot be entrusted with the maintenance of it. Even in Pennsylvania, six out of twenty-one Democratic Senators deliberately put themselves on the record as opposed to the present Tariff, and in favor of a lower one; and YERKES does not stand alone, among his political friends, in denouncing a high tariff framed with a view to incidental protection to American industry. He, and those who think with him, are honest enough to put themselves in accord with their party; and the time is fast approaching when the whole party in this State will be compelled to throw off all concealments, and vote as they really feel, in harmony with their Free Trade allies in other States.

In order that the people may see how these Democratic Senators voted upon this question, we append the vote upon MR. DAVIS' resolutions, requesting our Representatives in Congress to vote against the MORRISON Tariff bill:

YEAS—Messrs. Albright, Anderson, of Allegheny; Anderson, of Crawford; *Bechtel, Burnett*, Butterfield, *Chesnut, Cobban*, Cooper, Crouse, Davis, *Dill*, Dunkel, *Ermentrout*, Hellman, Herr, Horter, Jackson, Lamon, of Philadelphia; Lemon, of Blair; Lawrence, McClellan, McMullin, McNeil, *Neely*, Osbourn, Payne, Roebuck, Smith, *Stanton*, Strang, Wartel, Winslow, *Wood*, Yeakle, Yutzy —36.

NAYS—*Allen, Hayes*, Rockwell, Shimer, Thomas, Yerkes—6.

Democrats in *italic*.

The same resolutions came up in the House of Representatives, after the Senate passed them, and the action thereon is a fair test of the real feeling of the Democratic party on the Tariff. The House, as every one well knows, is Democratic; and the action of its political majority is the action of the party, in this State, to which that majority belongs.

As soon as the Senate resolutions were messaged over to the House, Mr. PACKER (Democrat) moved to refer them to the Committee on Federal Relations. This, after debate, was agreed to, by a party vote—yeas 87, nays 74—and the resolutions were accordingly sent to a committee to sleep the sleep of death, from which it will never be heard of again. The party did not dare to defeat the resolutions by a direct vote, nor did it have the courage to vote for them; so it chose the cowardly, skulking course of smothering them by a reference which was meant to be fatal to them.

This result is a sure indication of the subserviency of the Democratic party in this State to the Free Trade element. At a moment when the present Tariff is known to be in danger, and when it is essential that the voice of Pennsylvania should be heard in confirmation of the Free Trade MORRISON Tariff bill, the Democrats of the Pennsylvania Legislature step in to say that her voice shall *not* be heard. The friends of the MORRISON Tariff will thus be encouraged; for if Pennsylvania does not condemn it, when the opportunity offers, it may fairly be inferred by the Democrats that she does not feel dissatisfaction with it. The Free Traders in Congress have thus received from our Democratic House a direct encouragement to go on and pass the MORRISON bill, and the Democratic members of Congress from Pennsylvania are left at full liberty to vote for that bill, if they choose.

There is thus no room for doubt as to the position of the Democratic party of this State on the Tariff. It is clearly opposed to a protective tariff and in favor of MORRISON'S bill to close our workshops, turn the mechanics and laborers of the State out of their places, and bring certain ruin upon every industrial enterprise in the country. It has chosen its own course, and must take the consequences of its action.

The following are the resolutions of the Senate which the House voted to smother:

Resolved, That our Senators in Congress be instructed and our members be requested to vote against and use all honorable means to procure the defeat of the Morrison Tariff bill now pending in the House of Representatives at Washington, D. C.

Resolved, That any reduction in our present Tariff laws would cripple the energies of the nation, retard public improvements, destroy industrial enterprise, diminish the value of property, deprive the people of profitable employment by encouraging excessive importations of foreign goods and other products of foreign labor which ought to be produced by our own people, and thus prolong the financial crisis now prostrating the industries of the country.

Resolved, That the Governor be instructed to forward to each of our Senators and members of Congress a copy of the foregoing resolutions.

And the following is the vote by which the Democrats of the House voted to smother them:

YEAS—Messrs. Achenbach, Andre, Anstine, Backus, Burnett, Bedford, Birch, Boyer, Brown (Jefferson), Buck, Carver, Conrad (Philadelphia), Crawford, Darby, Deyarmon, Dry, Durling, Eldred, Embick, Erwin (Northampton), Faunce, Fogel, Geiselman, Gemmill, Geniuer, Gorman, Gress, Gunsler, Hannan, Harvey, Hasson, Hays, Holland, Irwin (Allegheny), Jamison, Kennedy, Keyser, Kimmell, Kistler, Knipe, Large, Lau, Largy, S. P., Lee (Montgomery), Leaw (Bucks), Lecron, Loftus, Logan (Crawford), Lusk, Marshall, McAsey, McHenry, McLean, McNiss, Miller (Berks), Miller (Philadelphia), Monaghan, Myers, Pallatt, Park, Parker, Piper, Plummer, Reighard, Reutter, Rogers, Rutter, Shugert, Shull, Spang, Spicer, Stahle, Stock, Stevens, Stotzer, Terry, Thornton, Toner, Wanner, Williams (Clarion), Wilson, Wimmer, Wise, Wishart, Withington, Worrall, Yerkes, Patterson, Speaker —87.

NAYS—Messrs. Agnew, Allen, Baily, Bakeoven, Bell, Billingsley, Boyd, Brown (Erie), Campbell, Carey, Chrisman, Christy, Cruikshank, Devereux, Dickey, Douglass, Falkenbury, Findley, Fortenbaugh, Fredericks, Gehr, Gillespie, Graff, Graham (Allegheny), Hall, Hill, Hoffius, Hostetter, Huhn, Humphreys, Jackson, Kimmell, Knight, Leach, Leigh, Lewis (Schuylkill), Logan (Erie), Losch, Loudenslager, Master, Miller (Somerset), Mitchell, Montgomery, Morgan (Lawrence), Morgan (Schuylkill), Moscrip, Mumford, Mylin, Newell, O'Neil, Patterson (Philadelphia), Phelps, Quirk, Reed, Reyburn, Ringgold, Roberts, Roney, Salter, Schoch, Shonk, Smith (Chester), Souder, Stewart, Stober, Summy, Thompson (Armstrong), Thompson (Indiana), Tracy, Vogdes, Wendt, Williams (Susquehanna), Wolfe, Yeakel —74.

AN INTERESTING bit of history relating to the infamous career of the rebel pirate SEMMES is furnished by a correspondent of the Buffalo *Commercial Advertiser*, in connection with the recent award of $63,000 to the owner of the American vessel Brilliant, for the destruction of that ship by the Alabama, and of $11,750 to the master of the vessel, for loss on the same. On the morning of October 3, 1862, the pirate steamer fell in with the Brilliant and the Emily Farnum. Both captains were ordered on board of the Alabama with their papers. They went into the presence of Captain SEMMES in his cabin. The papers of the Emily Farnum were found correct. Her cargo was owned in England, and the pirate did not dare to destroy her. So he determined to put his prisoners, from other ships which he had burned, some sixty in number, besides the crews of the two ships then under the guns of the Alabama, on board the Emily Farnum and burn the Brilliant. Going on deck, SEMMES announced his determination. Captain HAGER, of the Brilliant, had been anxiously awaiting, on the deck of the Alabama, the decision of his captor. When he heard the announcement HAGER stepped forward and said: "Captain SEMMES, down in a little town on Cape Cod, in Massachusetts, I have a wife and family dependent on me for a living. All I have in the world is in that ship. I am part owner. If she is destroyed I am a ruined man. At my age I can never repair the loss, and myself and family will be beggars. It will do you no good to burn her. To me and mine she is our all. I beg you not to destroy her." To this manly and touching appeal the pirate only returned an insulting refusal, and Captain HAGER had to submit to see his beautiful ship wantonly destroyed before his eyes. The several crews, nearly a hundred men, were huddled on board the Emily Farnum, to lay there and see the Brilliant burn down to the water's edge. Captain SEMMES coolly says, in his Book of Memoirs:

"I was much moved by the entreaties of the master of the Brilliant to spare his ship—he was a hardworking seaman, who owned a third interest in her. He had built her, and was attached to her, and she represented all his wordly goods. But I was forced to steel my heart. He was like the other masters who had remonstrated with me in the same boat—with the political rascals who had egged on the war—and I told him he must look to those rascals for redress. The ship made a brilliant bonfire, lighting up the gulf stream for many miles around—having set fire to her near night, and the wind falling to nearly a calm. We remained in sight of the burning wreck nearly all night."

He further says:

"The owners of the Brilliant have since put in a claim in that little bill, which Mr. Seward has pressed with so little effect hitherto against the British Government for indemnity for the *depredations of the Alabama*," for the ship alone and the freights and moneys which they lost by her destruction to the amount of $83,000. The cargo was even more valuable than the ship."

And now after nearly sixteen years have passed away, Captain HAGER receives from the American Government, as trustee, through her constituted Court of Claims, the money paid on that very account by the British Government, as his moiety of the "depredations of [illegible] whose pirate commander now spends his days in cursing in a drab the very Government to whose clemency he owes the continuation of his worthless life.

THE firmness of the Senate, at Harrisburg, in refusing to consider House bills until the House would fix the day of final adjournment and send over the General Appropriation bill, has conquered the stubbornness of the House, and defeated the scheme of the bummers to keep the Legislature in session until June, for the mere sake of the ten dollars a day. The House, on Wednesday, yielded both these points. It passed the General Appropriation bill, finally and hurriedly, and also fixed the day for final adjournment. This practically ended the dead lock between the two Houses, and the people owe it to the Republican Senate that the disgusting conspiracy of the Democratic bummers to fasten themselves like leeches upon the public Treasury has been exposed and defeated.

It is possible, and perhaps probable, that this result was somewhat hastened by the developements before the Investigating Committee on the Boom bill. These developements implicated so many Democrats, and subjected so many others to suspicion, that the leaders probably concluded it was not safe to give further scope to the investigation. The final adjournment cuts off the further action of the committee, and the Democrats breathe more freely and easily now that they know they can safely stay here much longer. The fifth of May will be, to them, a day of deliverance from their fears and apprehensions.

A Democratic member, when the excitement at Harrisburg was at the highest, exclaimed "Confound the Boom bill! It will cost me a thousand votes, in my district, and will defeat our party in the State!" As his district is a Republican one he does not, in our estimation, overrate the extent of his loss. He knows that the Republicans will not forget, nor forgive these exposures, repeat in 1876 the folly of 1874. They do not want to reap another crop of THORNTONS and PATTERSONS.

We do not exaggerate when we say that the people of the State will rejoice with great joy over the dissolution of this Democratic House of Representatives. It has been an obstacle to needed legislation, has accomplished no good or useful work, and has been, by its incompetency, fraternity and folly, a disgrace to the State. Its Speaker has become a general laughing stock, and although his political colleagues have the grace to be ashamed of him, they have not the pluck to get rid of him. PLUMMER treats him as a great party misfortune, and is inclined to apologize, in the name of his party, for inflecting him upon the people as a great public misfortune, also; but an apology will not atone for the wrongs done by him and the House under him. It is something, however, to know that his and its career is about to end, and for that let the people be duly greateful.

THERE are eleven Democratic members of the House of Representatives, at Harrisburg, from this county, and of these eleven members, *seven* voted to refer the Senate Tariff resolutions to a committee, thus practically voting against the resolutions, and four were absent. The vote was as follows:

For smothering the resolutions—IRWIN, HAYS, THORNTON, A. LARGE, S. P. LARGE, ROGERS, PATTERSON—7.

Against smothering—None.

Absent—CARSON, ZERN, SHIDLE and SWAN—4.

Messrs. CARSON, SHIDLE and SWAN were engaged on the Investigation Committee in this city, which accounts for their absence; but the presumption is they would all have voted with their colleagues, against the resolutions.

It is no excuse to say that this was a mere vote to refer, and did not involve the merits of the resolutions. The vote *did* involve the merits of the resolutions; and as the object was to put the resolutions out of the way and so prevent a vote on them, a vote in favor of reference was practically a vote against a Protective tariff. The whole matter was so understood at the time.

We thus have the spectacle presented of the representatives from a high tariff county voting in favor of a low tariff, and against the very best interests of their constituents. No matter how much a Democrat may protest that he is in favor of Protection, you may always feel assured that in heart and soul he is a Free Trader. Scratch the hide of one of these professed Democratic Protectionists, and underneath the outside skin you will be sure to find the free trade *Auto fide*. The tariff professions of all such men are but skin deep.

The lesson taught by these events at Harrisburg is that it is never safe to trust the interests of the country in Democratic hands. The MORRISON tariff is a British measure, got up for the benefit of British manufacturers and the importers of foreign goods; yet the Democrats of the Pennsylvania Legislature refuse to instruct our members in Congress to vote against a measure so destructive to our home interests. No Democrat can rise above the dead level of his party; and as the party everywhere outside of Pennsylvania is for Free Trade and the destruction of home industry, the Pennsylvania Democrat is compelled to train with his party. He does it, it is true, in a sneaking way; but no matter what he says to the contrary, he is always to be relied on by his Free Trade allies, when they call on him for his help.

FROM the regular quarterly report of failures in the United States and Canada, prepared by DUNN'S Mercantile Agency, a summary of which is published in our financial columns, it will be seen that the number of failures in this country during the first three months of the present year was 2,806, against 1,733 for the corresponding period last year, with liabilities amounting to $64,644,156, against $38,873,222. In Canada last year there were 396 failures, with liabilities amounting to $4,141,340. This year the number has been increased to 477, and the liabilities to $7,418,030. According to the last annual returns, the total number of persons engaged in industrial enterprises, as reported by this firm, was 680,072, thus giving a little more than four-tenths of one per cent. who have failed during the first three months of 1876, against about two and one-tenths per cent. during the same three months of 1875. The total liabilities also show a corresponding increase, so that the average liabilities to each individual are a little over $23,000 this year, and a little less than that amount last year. During the six months ending March 31 the failures have reached 4,176 in number, while the gross liabilities for the same period were $134,000,000. The New York *Journal of Commerce* says, concerning this matter:

"There can be no betterimes until there has been a general liquidation, and it is desirable that that should come about as soon as possible. The weak ones cannot succumb too fast for their own good and that of the whole public. Therefore when the statistics show so great an increase in the number of failures for the first three months of the year, compared with that of the same period in 1875, or of the last quarter of that year, there is no reason for crying over it."

THE case of the millionaire, A. T. STEWART, is another illustration of the folly of postponing the good intentions which wealthy men often entertain during their lifetime as to the disposition to be made of their estates. Mr. STEWART, who was in many respects a great man, and in all his benevolent purposes a good man, projected many schemes for the good of the community, during his lifetime; but, notwithstanding the wisdom of these projects, he shrunk from the task of putting them into shape or of completing them out of the means always at his command. He talked them over with his wife and with Judge HILTON, and fully contemplated doing something towards completing them before he died; but he put them off, from time to time, probably because he was overworked, and possibly because he was unwilling to part with the capital they would require; until finally he gave up altogether the idea of doing anything in the matter while he lived, and wrote his will so as to leave to his wife and Judge HILTON the duty of doing what he should have done himself. His executors doubtless know the outlines of the benefactions he proposed; but no one can carry them out in detail as well as he could have done had he followed out the purposes of his mind. Benefactions made during life are always better accomplished by the donor than similar benefactions made by will; and that benevolence which depends upon the discretion of executors is sure to fall far short of the original intention.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Immense deposits of copper ore have recently been discovered in New Mexico.

"Small Talk" uses too many sesquipedation words to express his starveling ideas.

The Hoosier Democratic State Committee [illegible] to assemble in State Convention to-morrow.

The Governor of Iowa has appointed a woman to act as chaplain of the State penitentiary.

The Second Minnesota district has a Congressman named Straight. He is a straight Republican.

A great many people recognize the duty of taking each other's part, and if they can do it they will.

This returned Samoan fowl is decidedly unwelcome to Babcock, and is likely to prove a very annoying bird.

The recently ceded territory in Central Asia is to be utilized by Russia by introducing and developing the cultivation of cotton.

The total amount of silver in the United States Treasury is not far from $14,000,000, all of which is available for the redemption of currency.

Don't fret; it only adds to your burden. To work hard is very well, but to work hard and worry too is more than human nature can bear.

Talking of silver, if silence is golden there is not much of that metal lying around among the Democratic candidates for the Presidency.

Dr. Mudd, of Wilkes Booth fame, has been elected to the Maryland Senate as a Republican, and the Democratic press is flinging mud at him.

There is a steadily increasing demand for "type writers," both on home and foreign account. The factory is now employing sixteen hundred hands.

Homelessness. The average number of people who have nightly sought a refuge in the station-houses of New York during this year has thus far been 866.

Among the treasures recently brought to light in Pompeii is a silver altar, on which were placed two silver cups and spoons, the latter precisely like those now used.

The Centennial people want nothing at the Exhibition which may recall the late war. Perhaps the one-armed and one-legged men had better stay at home.

A Connecticut school committee man, of strong republican tendencies, took occasion, in a recent address to the children, to mention the lion as *president* of beasts.

The Upper Missouri river is now open, and steamers have begun to move, adventurers and their outfits for the Black Hills forming a goodly proportion of the lading.

So Senator Sharon has gone home, and will not return again this session. Absenteeism in Congress is becoming a marked abuse, which ought to be corrected.

There are 3,500,000 cattle in Texas, and as many more on the plans. The drive this year will number 350,000 head. This means four or five millions of dollars sent to Texas.

Barnum has organized a new show. To convey it he has 100 patent solid steel railroad cars, all his own, and to carry it on he employs 1,100 persons and 600 horses and ponies.

A Massachusetts paper company recently wound an unbroken sheet of paper four miles long and weighing half a ton. It is to be sent to Alex. H. Stephens for paragraphic uses.

The bill lately introduced in the California Legislature to compel newspaper editors to append their names to articles written by them has been defeated. It was a preposterous measure.

The United States Secret Service is making a hot and effective war on the counterfeiters throughout the country. At this time there are only three counterfeit plates in existence.

The Pennsylvania Bible Society is erecting, on the Centennial Exhibition grounds a neat building, where the Scriptures will be furnished in every leading language. This is a wise thought.

Bishop Cummins, of the Reformed Episcopal Church, in a recent address before a Sunday school in Baltimore, is represented as saying: "If you take the rind off us you will find us Methodist within."

Good. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue proposes to break up the abuse of revenue officers absenting themselves from their posts to the detriment of the service, by stopping their pay while absent.

Massachusetts proposes to tax the property of churches and religious societies, but will allow each society to hold $12,000 worth of property without taxation; a discrimination as absurd as it is arbitrary.

How shiftless. More than two and a half millions of sheep are annually shorn of their fleeces in Texas, and there is but one factory of any pretensions in the State to work up these millions of pounds of wool.

The "Dare to do Right" temperance movement is sweeping through New England with the force of a tidal wave. It is not only making sober fishermen on the coast, but also sober farmers in the interior.

Rip Van Winkle's demons of the Catskills seem to have transferred themselves to the Highlands of the Hudson, where continuous earth-eruptions and unearthly noises are scaring the people out of their senses.

The Moody and Sankey revival services in New York close to-morrow. They have preached and sung enough to give the entire clergy of that city a bronchitis that suggests Europe, but they appear to be hale and hearty as ever.

Anybody can tell you what you ought to do, but he alone stirs you to do it who is trying to do it himself. During the war an impassioned speaker who said "Go," was hissed down, while the man who said "Come," was loudly applauded.

"The Song of the Shirt."

[From the London Observer.]

Ladies will often find in the evidence given at coroners' inquests a wholesome contrast to the "unmeaning nothings" that make up so much of the brilliant conversation of modern society. For instance, a story which means something was told at an inquest held last week at the St. Martin's Vestry Hall, Charing Cross, on the body of Ada File, aged twenty-two. The deceased, it appeared, occupied one room in a lodging-house with an older sister. Since the death of their mother the two sisters had gained a precarious living by needlework. All one Saturday night and Sunday morning, when many other girls were at the opera or at church, Ada File was sewing and stiching, her only food during the long hours of her work being one cup of tea on Saturday afternoon. About five on Sunday afternoon she suddenly gave a loud shriek and fell back dead. Her death, according to medical evidence and the verdict of the jury, was caused by the failure of the action of the heart, produced by overwork and want of solid food. Thus died Ada File, noting and heeding the cares of life to the last, and leaving a sad and suggestive story to point, at least one important moral. This poor girl would have gladly devoured the savory and appetizing domestic servant would scout from the kitchen table; she might in many a household have found a comfortable home, far lighter occupation, and better pay as either cook or housemaid than that on which she was starved to death; but it is only too probable that her education had not been such as to fit her for any employment more remunerative and healthy than the wretched drudgery to which she at last fell a victim.

ARKANSAS.

Area—Navigable Rivers—Agricultural and Mineral Resources—Timber—Prairies—Healthfulness—Railway Facilities—Schools—Churches, etc., etc.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

FORT SMITH, ARK., April 10, 1876.

Many years ago, when the "Arkansaw Traveler" journeyed through Arkansas there was neither steamboats, railroads nor telegraph lines, and in some places there were not even perfect roofs on the cabins. Then a man could not see much of Arkansas in one month; but now these things are changed, and your correspondent has been through most of this vast area of over fifty-two thousand square miles included in Arkansas, from east to west, and from north to south, during the last month and, notwithstanding it was generally known that I was from Massachusetts, I never received kinder treatment in any country than here, and was most cordially welcomed and entertained by all classes of citizens, including Governor Garland and all the other State officials, city authorities and the newspaper men generally. In this respect I was most agreeably surprised, having been unfavorably impressed by misrepresentations concerning the state of society here.

NAVIGABLE RIVERS.

Arkansas is traversed by no less than five navigable rivers, besides the Mississippi, which forms the eastern boundary for more than four hundred miles; and the Arkansas, which rises among the snow-clad Rocky Mountains, here flows entirely across the State from west to east, and is from one-half mile to a mile and a quarter wide, and navigable for steamboats at all seasons.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES.

Owing to the great number of streams flowing through the State, Arkansas has a much larger area of very rich bottom lands than any other State in the Union. These lands produce immense crops of corn, wheat, oats, rye, barley, all kinds of grapes, potatoes, common and sweet, melons and fruits, and the average yield of cotton is from five to six hundred pounds of lint to the acre.

The uplands are also very productive, but are better adapted to fruit growing, including peaches, apples and grapes especially; while all other kinds grown in the temperate zones do well here.

There are three conditions that insure luxuriant and mature vegetation, viz: Good soil, plenty of rain, and plenty of sunshine.

In Arkansas, as has already been stated, the soil is good, and the average annual rainfall is about fifty-three inches; and in spring and summer the sun is rarely obscured by clouds for a whole day.

MINERALS.

These consist of lead, copper, iron and coal of excellent qualities, and in great abundance. The iron is both magnetic and carbonaceous, and the coal is a semi-anthracite, in veins of from three to eight feet thick.

TIMBER.

Arkansas has more good hard and soft timber than any other State. The varieties include red, white, black and post oaks, black and white hickory, black walnut, hard and soft maples, popiars, black cherry, gum, cypress, ash, elm, sycamore, cotton wood, sassafras, basswood and the most extensive pineries of as good a quality as any on the continent.

PRAIRIES.

These are small and most numerous and extensive in the western portion of the State. They are covered with a luxuriant growth of grasses.

HEALTHFULNESS.

On account of the vast area of overflowed lands in the eastern and southern portions of the State, these localities are not healthful; but the northwestern portion, being hilly and mountainous, is very healthful, and the climate is very mild and salubrious the year round.

SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

are both about as numerous and well attended, according to the population here, as in any of the States. The State has a large school fund and a good system of public instruction.

RAILWAY FACILITIES.

There are two great lines of railway extending entirely across the State, one from northeast to southwest, the other from east to west, and another is nearly completed from the southeastern portion of the State, to intersect all the others at Little Rock, and is owned by the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railway Company, to which the United States Government granted a belt of land twenty miles wide on each side of the road from Little Rock to Fort Smith; and the company yet has one million acres of this rich agricultural, fruit, timber and mineral lands for sale, at from two dollars and fifty cents to twenty dollars per acre for cash or on six years' credit.

HOW TO GO.

Tickets through to St. Louis, Mo., then take St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railway to Little Rock, Ark.

CONWAY.

INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS NOTES.

The Coatesville, Pa., shoe factory is so full of orders that it is running day and night.

The petroleum trade of Philadelphia and New York gives employment to about 500 vessels.

It is said that ninety-two Italian and other vessels are bound to Philadelphia to load grain.

The Union Churn Factory at Tiffin, Ohio, annually makes 7,000 churns and 15,000 dozen washboards.

The Lemont, Furnace Fayette county, Pa., is turning out about thirty-three tons of iron per day.

The suspension of the rolling mills of the late firm of Steele & Worth, of Coatesville, Pa., has driven away from the town one of the best workers, and closed up a number of dwellings there.

Hopewell Furnace, in Berks county, Pa., owned by Clingan & Buckley, will go into blast as soon as the wood can be cut and coaled. 3,000 cords have been cut, but it requires 3,000 more for a year's blast. Hopewell is one of the oldest furnaces in the State, having been built in 1735.

The Greensburg, Pa., *Argus* says: It is reported that a Glasgow, Scotland, iron firm have purchased the coal underlying the Kemp farm, south of this place, and during the coming summer will erect a large number of coke ovens, and manufacture coke on an extensive scale, for shipment to Scotland.

The paper mill located on Spring creek, about a mile from Bellefonte, which has been idle for some time, has been recently leased to a New Jersey firm, who contemplate starting it at once. They manufacture paper out of old hemp rope, and have an established trade.—*Bellefonte, Pa., Republican.*

Messrs. Fisher & Norris, Eagle Anvil Works, of Trenton, New Jersey, have just turned out the largest blacksmith's anvil in the world. The cast steel face is five feet in length, including the horn, and eight inches in width; it is welded in one piece to the body of the anvil. It weighs 1,380 pounds, and is intended for a part of the firm's Centennial exhibit at Philadelphia. It is especially interesting from the fact that so large a piece of steel has never been welded to iron before either in this country or Europe. This firm manufacture a large variety of anvils, among which are many kinds for special purposes, as for saw makers and others. Many of these have been sent to only been made abroad, but are now produced by them equal to any of the foreign brands.

The Preparation of Sealskins.

[From the Contemporary Review.]

When the seals have reached the killing-ground they are allowed a certain time to rest and cool, after which about 100 are driven together into an enclosure, and the fittest are selected for slaughter. The others are allowed to go down to the nearest water, whence they at once make their way back to the sea. The instrument of destruction is a long club of hard wood, with which the animals are struck a violent blow on the head. One is usually sufficient. A long sharp knife is then thrust into the vitals, and the carcass laid aside, and so on until 1,000 have been slain, when the work of skinning commences. When taken off the skins are salted and sent home in that condition. On arriving here they are properly cured, and then comes the preparation for their conversion into what is properly called "sealskin." It is difficult to conceive how that beautiful article of dress can ever be manufactured out of the very unattractive object the skin presents at this juncture. It is hard and unyielding as a board, and the stiff, coarse hairs cover the fur so completely that its very existence might be unsuspected. The problem to be solved is how to separate it under fur. For many years each individual hair was plucked out severally, and of course a vast expenditure of time and money, until a lucky accident revealed to the dressers the fact that the roots of the hair were more deeply seated than those of the fur. Now, therefore, after preliminary preparation, the skins were laid half downward on a wooden block with a curved surface and pared down with a knife until the roots of the hair have been cut through, and the skin of the outside becomes thin as a kid glove. All the coarser hair can then be brushed off with the hand, leaving the fur, which is then seen to be arranged in small curls, of a light brown color, varying slightly in shade in the different parts. In consequence nearly all "sealskin" is dyed before it is sold, and in the process of dyeing the curls untwist themselves and the fur becomes smooth and ready for use. The profits made in dealing in furs must be worth having. The value of each skin that leaves the Pribyloff or Island, now our main source of furs, is trifling. The Goverment of the United States imposes, it is true, a revenue tax of $2 a skin, to which must be added the cost of the maintenance of an establishment in so remote a spot; but even after all allowances have been made for this and other expenses in Europe the price demanded for a jacket must still be regarded as extravagant.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

Turkey.

A BATTLE—THE INSURGENTS BADLY WHIPPED.

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 13.—An official telegraphic dispatch from the Governor of Bosnia reports that a battle has taken place near Kjevacs, between the Turkish troops and 1,000 insurgents from the Austrian bank of the Save. The insurgents were routed with a loss of 300 killed and wounded. A portion of the band was pursued by the Turkish troops and recrossed the Save, while others took refuge in the mountains. The Turkish loss was trifling.

THE ATTITUDE OF SERVIA—THE TURKS WHIPPED.

BERLIN, April 17.—The Porte again calls the attention of the Powers to the attitude of Servia, whence, it is stated, the insurrection is continually drawing supplies.

Sclavonic advices state that the engagement between the Turks and insurgents resulted in the defeat of the Turks.

Greece.

FIVE HIGH OFFICIALS CONVICTED OF BRIBERY.

ATHENS, April 13.—The High Court of Justice has sentenced M. Balassopouloo, former Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs, to one year imprisonment, deprivation of political rights during three years, and to give the ten thousand dollars he received as a bribe to the poor house. M. Neckolopolous, a former Minister of Justice, was sentenced to ten months' imprisonment; the Archbishop of Coppalonia was fined $10,000; the Archbishop of Patros $4,000 and the Archbishop of Messene $4,000, being double the amounts they received as bribes. All were impeached for corruption and simony.

NOTE.—The history of the investigation is as follows: On the overthrow of the Bulgaris Ministry, the late opposition sought to retaliate upon those who had ridden roughshod over the rights of their fellow-deputies. The Public Prosecutor of the Court of Appeal in Athens, a friend of the present First Minister, petitioned the House to inquire into the conduct of the Minister of Justice and Minister for Ecclesiastical Affairs, with regard to the appointment of the four Archbishops, setting forth the grounds of his belief that their practices had been corrupt. A committee of five members was forthwith appointed to investigate the truth of the allegations and to draw prosecutors in the event of the defendants being committed for trial. Witnesses were examined before the committee, and the ex-Ministers arrested on the 13th of November last.

France.

THE HUGO-BLANC MEETING.

PARIS, April 17.—The receipts for admission to the Workingmen's meeting at which Victor Hugo and Louis Blanc spo